GMA on Erap: No political deals, only compassion

Story below, COL. 1

Priest gets jail term for sexual misconduct

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A Catholic priest in Tuba, Benguet, has been sentenced to four months imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to charges of sexual misconduct.

And in a strange twist of fate, Municipal Trial Court Judge Benjamin Buena,

PRIEST / A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Japanese businessmen are bullish on RP**
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- **Mahathir retires; Badawi takes over**
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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, November 1, 2003 ★★ 58 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 326 P15 website: www.inq7.net

"I WILL not be rushed into impulsive action by the agenda of others." VAL HANDUMON

GMA: Presidency is middle force

By Juliet L. Javellana

REACTING to charges of weak leadership, the President yesterday defended her handling of the Davide impeachment crisis—and flexed some military muscle.

"The Executive shall firmly hold the middle ground in this controversy but let this never be interpreted as weakness," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a long statement titled "The presidency as a middle force."

"To be drawn wantonly to either side of this dispute will derail the chances of a principled compromise and further erode national stability," Ms Macapagal said.

The President was debunking criticism—raised by presidential candidate Raul Roco and the Institute of Political and Electoral Reforms—that her failure to exercise leadership by letting the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. slip through Congress had weakened her as a President and as a candidate in next year's elections.

She said she "would not be rushed into impulsive action by the agenda of others" and assured the people that the situation was not spinning out of control. "It has strengthened the presidency as a middle force and not weakened it," she said.

She also vowed to strike hard against any group that tries to use the impeachment crisis as a pretext to destabilize the government.

"The presidency has the will, the authority and the resources to quell any disorder or attempts at destabilization, and we shall not hesitate to move decisively against those who will exploit this crisis to foment violence," she said. "No one is above the law."

In a speech at the Mindanao Business Conference in Cagayan de Oro City, the President

GMA/ A8

'Vacuum of leadership'

Davide: We're in great danger of military intervention

By Philip C. Tubeza, *in Manila*
and Jolene R. Bulambot, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

THE "VACUUM of leadership" resulting from the constitutional crisis brought about by his impeachment may cause another form of military adventurism, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. warned Thursday night.

Speaking on GMA 7's public affairs program "Debate," the Chief Justice also virtually accused the impeachment proponents of twisting the facts against him, and said many of those who signed the complaint had not even read its contents.

He also declared: "I'm not going to resign. I have not committed any crime. I have not committed any impeachable offense and I'm going to defend the judiciary—the last bulwark of democracy."

Davide said there was "already a crisis when this impeachment charge, which is unconstitutional, was started.

"Look at what is happening now to our country," he said. "The economy is affected. I am sure that foreign investors would not come to the Philippines anymore. The graver danger would be that we are in fact creating an atmosphere ... that would invite the military [to intervene]. And you know what would be the consequence."

Davide, who headed the commission that investigated the 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration, quoted "many people" as saying that "this vacuum of leadership created by this impasse now may indeed invite military adventurism."

"We are in great danger," he warned, and expressed the hope that the country's leaders could "work together ... for the sake of our people and our country," and to "save our democracy."

VACUUM/ A8

10 days to work on 17 Lakas lawmakers

THE RULING Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats is wading into the effort to persuade pro-impeachment lawmakers to withdraw their signatures from the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez said party leaders will organize rallies and campaign against Davide's impeachment during the 10-day "lull" before the House transmits the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

Alvarez said party leaders would try to persuade the 17 Lakas signatories to withdraw from the impeachment complaint charging Davide with misuse of the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF).

"We in the party will work to change the vote [of the congressmen]," he said. "And on the fifth day of the lull, you'll see an uproar [against impeachment] because the party will ventilate the issues."

Alvarez said party leaders would travel to various points of the country to explain why the impeachment case should be "aborted." He said the complaint against Davide had no basis.

"The 10-day lull bought us a reprieve so that our congressmen can consult their constituents," he said.

Gov. Daisy Avance Fuentes,

10 DAYS/ A7

FPJ worries over his lack of political experience

By Marinel R. Cruz

A CASE of cold feet or touching humility?

Even as the pressure and the clamor for him to run for president mounts, movie star Fernando Poe Jr. appears to have been struck by doubts about his ability, or lack of it, to lead the nation.

The action star, known as "Da King" to his legions of fans, worried aloud about his lack of political experience as he talked with guests and friends in show business at the birthday party of former movie star Annabel Rama at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas on Thursday night.

"*Si Erap naging vice mayor, tapos mayor, naging senador, vice president at president. Samantalang ako* . . . if you know what I mean [ex-President Joseph Estrada was a vice mayor, then a mayor, then a senator, vice president and president, while I ....]," Poe mused.

He pointed out that he has never held public office, not even the lowly post of *barangay tanod* (village watchman).

The opposition has said that it intends to draft Poe as its standard-bearer in the presidential elections next May, and Estrada, Poe's best friend, is reportedly putting strong pressure on him to run. He has also been assured of support from certain business groups and his own friends in show business.

FPJ WORRIES/ A9

... "IF GOD choose, I shall but love thee better after death," so goes the poet's paean to a loved one and so, too, do the heirs of a new generation bereaved of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters by the violence of martial rule remember their heroic forebears whose grave sites are unknown to this day. For them, a memorial site has been created inside the UP Diliman campus where they are loved beyond life. JOAN BONDOC

Tropical storm dampens All Saints' Day

By Norman Bordadora

FOR SURE, you'll be wrapped up in sentiment as you honor your dearly loved dead today.

But also make sure you wear a raincoat and boots or a pair of mud-proof shoes. Bring an umbrella and secure those tents at the cemetery.

Tropical storm Viring (international codename: Melor) is bringing rain on all All Saints' Day today.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Viring had intensified further as it moved closer to Northern Luzon, according to the weather bulletin of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

The northern and eastern sections of Luzon will be stormy with rough to very rough seas.

"Residents of low-lying areas and near mountain slopes are advised to be on alert against flash floods and landslides," read Pagasa's bulletin yesterday.

The rest of Luzon, Pagasa said, will have rains and occasional gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country in the Visayas and Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunder storms.

Pagasa said that Viring will have strongest sustained winds of 95 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 120 kph.

It is expected to hit land over the northern Aurora-Isabela area around noon today and will be in the vicinity of Kalinga by this afternoon and northwest of Laoag by tomorrow afternoon.

TROPICAL / A6

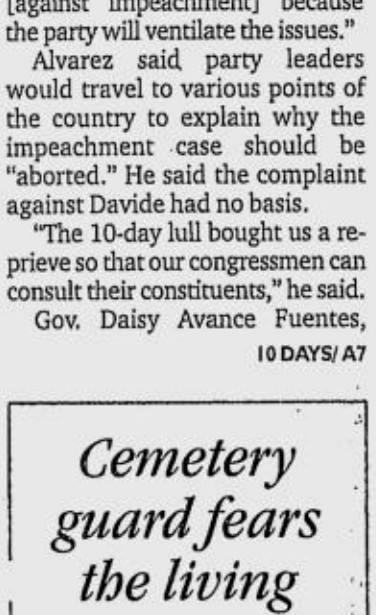
Cemetery guard fears the living

By Margaux Ortiz
Metro

DRUG addicts and thieves are a lot scarier than ghosts for the lone *barangay tanod* looking after the Makati City Cemetery.

"I've only encountered ghosts in my dreams," said Gabriel Arriesgado, 45, as he sits on top of a tomb in-

CEMETERY/ A6



GMA on Erap: No political deals, only compassion

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Armand Nocum

IN AN EFFORT to justify her administration's perceived mellowing stance, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she was acting only with "compassion and respect" toward her predecessor.

"Within the bounds set forth by the court, we are exercising utmost compassion and respect for the dignity of the former President [Joseph Estrada]," Ms Macapagal said in a statement. "This is simply a matter of humane consideration."

Earlier, the government relaxed its stringent rules on Estrada's detention when it posed no objection to his request to be allowed to visit his ailing mother at her residence in San Juan, and to his subsequent confinement at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang for treatment of severe arthritis.

Estrada was moved out of the hospital at 3:30 p.m. yesterday and taken back to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, to where he was transferred late last month from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

Ms Macapagal had also earlier hinted that Estrada may be allowed to fly to the United States to undergo knee surgery.

But yesterday she denied that these were part of a concession to gain the support of Estrada's loyal followers, which could help her candidacy in next year's elections.

"There are absolutely no political deals involved, and the supremacy of justice is unsullied," said Ms Macapagal, who had earlier declared her desire to be recognized as President even by those who mounted the so-called "Edsa Tres."

"I am for national unity and reconciliation under the rule of

GMA/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2003

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and eastern sections of Luzon will be stormy with rough to very rough seas. The rest of Luzon will have rains and occasional gusty winds. The rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/01/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Catapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

Ping won't sing to woo voters

By Christine O. Avendaño

DON'T expect Sen. Panfilo Lacson to sing or dance when he finally hits the campaign trail in the next few months in his bid for the highest position in the land.

Lacson, who is confident he would be chosen as the united opposition's presidential standard-bearer, said he will not engage in any of these theatrics because these just "didn't fit" his personality.

Instead, Lacson, a former national police chief and now opposition senator, intends to do more talking than belting out a song or dancing the Mambo for the crowd when he goes campaigning for the presidency.

"I'll just explain to the people my platform. I'll just explain that I'm not a drug lord, kidnapper and as a matter of fact I've been a nemesis of drug lords and kidnappers of this country," Lacson told foreign media correspondents in Manila in a recent gathering.

Lacson was responding to queries on how he intends to go about his election campaign, whether he would engage in singing and dancing to woo peoples' votes.

But Lacson said that he had made clear to his handlers that singing and dancing were a "no-no" "because it doesn't fit me."

For the senator, engaging in such antics would only result in people losing their respect for the candidate.

Aside from saying he can't sing and dance, Lacson admitted that his "weakness" is his own public relations or PR.

"I don't have any good PR probably because of my upbringing as a police officer, as a military officer," said Lacson, a graduate of Class 1971 of the Philippine Military Academy.

Lacson admitted that he found it hard to adjust and relate to people, especially to members of the media.

Until now, he said, he has yet to overcome this weakness as he noted it was "really hard to be hypocritical about how you feel and what your sentiments are."

"If I don't like a person then I don't like the person," Lacson said.

Asked on his "strengths," Lacson said it was Jlo. No, he was not referring to the popular American singer and actress, but to his commitment to bring about "justice, law and order" in the country.

Lacson also said that his being tagged as a drug lord started when he ran for senator in 2001.

When he eventually won a Senate seat, he said the "campaign against my person" became even "more vicious and more cruel."

He told reporters that he had asked people in Camp Crame, the headquarters of the Philippine National Police, to check intelligence reports and records to find out whether he engaged in these illegal activities and was told they found nothing on him.

When he was with the PNP, he disclosed that he refused to accept bribes amounting to P5 to P10 million a month that were offered to him by gambling lords.

"You are a high profile personality and you cannot escape from the people's curiosity or inquisitiveness if you are getting involved in some illegal activities," he said.

DUBIOUS STORY

Hostage victim now a suspect

THE MILITARY is looking into the possibility recovered Filipino-Malaysian hostage Novelito "Nonoy" Arkusil was "in cahoots" with his abductors after noting inconsistencies in his statements, including his story about the execution of his five fellow hostages.

Military interrogators have also established that Arkusil's parents are in Sabah, Malaysia, and were not among the six people abducted from an island resort on Borneo last month, as the young Arkusil had claimed.

Arkusil, 19, had said the five other hostages, including his parents, were shot to death in Tawi-Tawi last Sunday while trying to escape from their abductors, a claim that was debunked by the military who failed to find the bodies.

"We are [checking] why Nonoy Arkusil gave conflicting statements. What were his reasons?" said Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military chief information officer.

Arkusil, who was found in Tawi-Tawi Monday afternoon, claimed he and the other hostages were ordered to run by their captors who then proceeded to mow them down. He said he was the only one to survive.

Lucero said Arkusil was being "held for further questioning" at Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City.

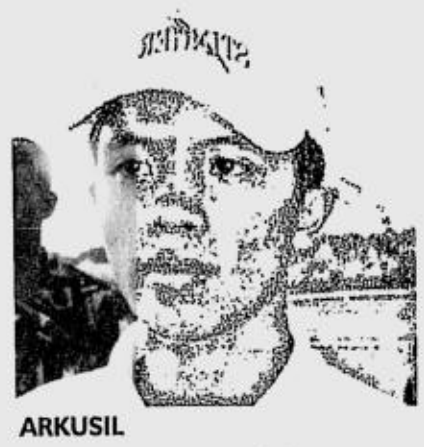
Arkusil and the other hostages—two Malaysians, two Indonesians and a Filipino—were seized by an unidentified armed group from the Borneo Eco-farm Paradise Resort in Sabah on Oct. 5.

Until Arkusil was found, there had not been much word on the kidnapping, except for sporadic news on the kidnappers' demand for 16 million ringgit in ransom. Malaysian government officials, as well as the resort, refused to pay the ransom.

Southcom officials had gathered from Arkusil's Filipino relatives in Mindanao that his parents were not among those abducted. Arkusil's mother is a Filipino.

"The parents of Arkusil are now in Sabah; they are staying in Sabah," Lucero said, quoting the relatives who contacted Southcom immediately after reports on the alleged killings came out in the media.

Military officials announced the deaths of the five hostages on Tuesday based on the account of the young Arkusil. Two days later, they were forced to retract their announcement after no bodies were found.



ARKUSIL

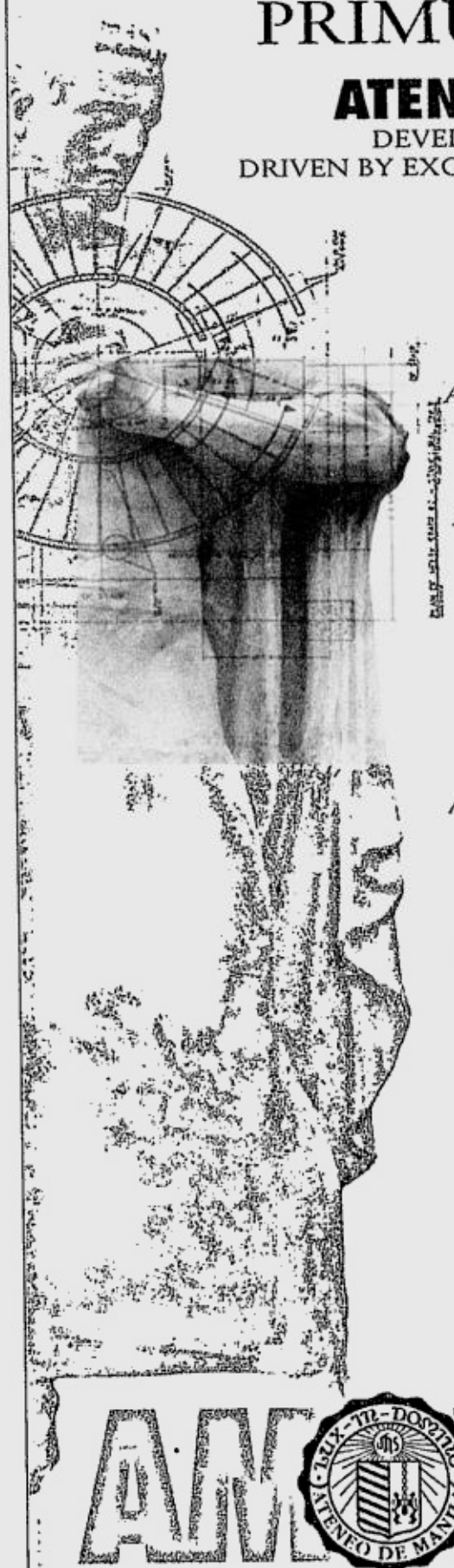
"Because of our need to inform the public, we took the words of Arkusil as valid and true," Lucero admitted.

In the meantime, troops from the Marine Battalion Landing Team continue to focus rescue efforts for the five remaining captives in Tawi-Tawi.

"We are hoping the five hostages are still alive. This is the reason we are conducting rescue operations," Lucero said, adding that with Arkusil's parents not among the hostages, the military did not now know the identities of the hostages.

FIRST

PRIMUS INTER PARES



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AMONG EQUALS

RP-US study cites major AFP shortcomings

THE MILITARY suffers from major shortcomings in almost every area, raising serious doubts about its ability to overcome Muslim and communist rebels, according to a study by the US and Philippine armed forces.

The Philippine military is considered one of the weakest in Southeast Asia but it is an important force internally—the Armed Forces provided crucial support to "people power" uprisings in 1986 and in 2001 that replaced presidents and have mounted nine abortive coups in the past two decades.

The study, obtained by Reuters from a Philippine defense department source, highlighted a wide range of weaknesses in the operational abilities of a military that has become a key regional ally of the United States against Muslim militant groups suspected of links to al-Qaida.

"Specific limitations include ground mobility, air assault capability, intelligence, communications equipment and civic action capabilities," said the Joint Defense Assessment report conducted by experts from the US Pacific Command in Hawaii and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

It said aside from improving equipment, the military needed to reform its organization, citing "general confusion" over which units were designated special forces.

"Most military units want to be considered 'special ops'," the report said. "This has created a disjointed and dysfunctional military organization."

The source said the assessment was based on information given by the Philippines, visits to military camps and independent data culled from other sources.

The government has been fighting for more than three decades to defeat Muslim secessionist rebels on the southern island of Mindanao and communist guerrillas spread across the country.

Aside from a lack of funding, the military's effectiveness has come under question because of perceptions of widespread corruption within its ranks. *Reuters*

Seized ammo traced to PMA Class '95

By Leila B. Salaverria

POLICE have traced the source of the ammunitions seized from the house of a suspected Magdalo supporter to members of class '95 of the Philippine Military Academy, the batch to which most of the Oakwood mutiny leaders belong.

Supt. Araceli Hofilena, head of the Station 5 of the Western Police District, said that three surnames found on one of the cases of ammunition seized from the LTS condominium in Paco, Manila, belonged to PMA Class '95 members with ranks of captain and first lieutenant.

Both Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV and Capt. Gerardo Gambala, who led the failed July 27 Oakwood mutiny, were members of PMA Class '95.

Hofilena said the identities were confirmed with the help of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The names, which police withheld while the investigation is pending, were written on packaging tape wrapped around one of the ammunition cases with government markings.

The cases of ammunition along with several high-powered firearms and a Magdalo armband and banner were seized from the LTS condominium unit along Paz St. in Paco, Manila owned by Marine Capt. (reserve) Leonardo V. Sen.

Hofilena said Sen claimed the high-powered firearms, which included an M-14 and an M-16, were part of his gun collection. But she said Sen clammed up when asked about the ammunitions.

According to Hofilena, she believes Sen was only asked by friends in the military to keep the ammunitions in his house, adding that evidence gathered so far shows that Sen was not a plotter or a financier of the aborted coup.

Sen and five others were charged with illegal possession of firearms, direct assault and damage to property.

RP cuts Baghdad embassy staff to 2

THE PHILIPPINES has reduced the number of staff at its embassy in Iraq amid a deadly wave of terrorist bombings in Baghdad, official sources here said yesterday.

They said the mission was left in the care of charge d'affaires Ricardo Endaya and another staff member while nine others were temporarily sent to other Filipino embassies in the Middle East.

"It's very dangerous there, that's why we have to move out our people from the embassy," said a foreign department official who asked not to be named.

This week started in bloodshed when a series of concerted car bomb attacks in Baghdad killed 43 people and wounded 200 more.

Despite the surge of violence, the Philippines has pledged to boost its peacekeepers in Iraq to 500.

"The US said they are in need of more soldiers and police than medical workers. We are building up on that, not immediately but gradually," Foreign Secretary Blas Ople told reporters Friday.

Additional troops would be deployed there "very soon," he said without elaborating.

A total of 55 Filipino soldiers, 26 policemen and 15 medical practitioners went to Iraq in August. *AFP*

Imelda hit for London sidetrip

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday said Imelda Marcos, the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was in violation of the terms of a permit to travel granted to her by a Manila court when she asked for an extension of her trip to the United States and Europe after she had already left the country.

This offense merited the cancellation of any bail granted to Imelda by the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court, said PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza.

The 75-year-old former first lady is out on bail after the Sandiganbayan ordered her arrest in 2001 on four graft charges stemming from her family's alleged funneling of billions of pesos in ill-gotten wealth to Swiss banks.

Carranza also questioned why the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26 which granted Imelda's request to travel for a period of 30 days from Oct. 2 allowed her to travel to London which was not part of her requested itinerary. She left the country on Oct. 5.

On Oct. 22, Imelda's lawyers filed a motion with the Manila RTC asking that she be allowed to extend the period of her travel until Nov. 12. She claimed that her doctor in New York needed to conduct a follow-up examination after Nov. 5 and that her doctor in London also scheduled an appointment with her for Nov. 6.

The lawyers submitted letters from her doctor as proof of her medical appointments.

The PCGG said there appeared to be "a patent irregularity" in the order issued by Manila RTC acting presiding judge Oscar Barrientos allowing Imelda to leave.

In a Sept. 26 petition, Imelda asked that she be allowed to go the US for medical treatment and to France, Portugal and Italy for a pilgrimage for a period of 30 days from Oct. 1 to Nov. 1.

On Oct. 2, Barrientos, citing her constitutional right and humanitarian reasons, issued an order allowing Imelda to travel to the US and London "only and not in any other places" from Oct. 2 to Nov. 1.

Carranza said Barrientos should explain why he allowed Imelda to travel to London when it was not in her original request.

"Furthermore, Mrs. Marcos only filed her motion to travel only after the PCGG requested for a certification from the Manila RTC Branch 26 asking whether there has been a motion for permission to travel abroad filed [there]," Carranza said.

The PCGG said Imelda had abused the travel authority by seeking an extension while she is still out of the country.

Carranza pointed out that the Marcos widow also filed a motion with the Sandiganbayan asking for an extension of her trip but this was denied.

The INQUIRER learned that the PCGG had tried to ask for the inhibition of Barrientos from hearing any of the Marcos-related cases after it found out that the judge was allegedly once linked to a Marcos crony, Roberto Benedicto.

No settlement is honorable, Davide told

SAYING it would be dishonorable for the Supreme Court to submit to any "honorable settlement" with the House of Representatives over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide, the Public Interest Law Center urged Davide to submit himself to an impeachment trial.

"What is worse than an embattled Chief Justice is a Supreme Court that wheels and deals with congressmen to stop the transmission of the articles of impeachment to the Senate at all cost," said the PILC in a statement.

The group, which acts as probono counsels for rights victims and in plunder cases, said what would be worse than an impeachment threat is for justices themselves to be "intimidated to barter and trade with satraps and plunderers in Congress to avoid an impeachment trial."

"What is so wrong with going to trial? If the Supreme Court believes in our democratic institutions, then the justices should be the first ones to welcome going to trial, so they could teach us lawyers how it is done," the PILC said.

A group of House legislators has called for the creation of a five-member "truth commission," composed of representatives from the three branches of government and two constitutional bodies, to look into alleged irregularities in the use of the Judiciary Development Fund.

The group said that this could stave off a constitutional crisis with the current stand-off between Congress and the Supreme Court over the impeachment of Davide.

Under the proposal, this super body will be composed of either the chair of the House committee on justice or committee on good government, a Supreme Court justice, the chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to represent Malacañang and the chair of the Commission on Audit.

The proponents of this move are Lakas representatives Faysah Dumarpa (Lanao del Sur), James Gordon (Olongapo City), Reylina Nicolas (Bulacan) and Raul Villareal (Nueva Ecija), and Cibac party-list Rep. Kim Lokin.

The Nationalist People's Coalition which spearheaded the Davide impeachment will be represented by the chairs of the committees on justice and good government, Marcelino Libanan (Eastern Samar) and Elias Ruy Lopez (Davao City), who are both NPC members.

The commission will be given 30 days to wrap up its probe, after which it will submit its findings to the the Supreme Court and the House.

Nicolas, who earlier signed the impeachment complaint but later withdrew, said Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. has been informed of the proposal.

There was no immediate reaction from De Venecia who earlier attempted to forge a "win-win solution." *Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo*

The 4th NATIONAL

Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week

Proclamation No. 110 by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

November 9-15, 2003

Theme:

Balat...Alagaan Laban sA sakiT

paglilingkod ng PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Nov. 9, 2003 Sun.	Free Clinic	San Ildefonso Parish Church, Makati City
Nov. 10, 2003 Mon.	Poster Exhibits on "Common Skin Diseases" at different PDS training hospitals	Hospital lobbies: Jose R. Reyes Memorial Hospital, Makati Medical Center, Ospital ng Makati, UERM Medical Center, Philippine General Hospital, UST Hospital
	Lecture on Basic Care for Healthy Skin, Hair & Nails	Capitol & Lapu-lapu Health Centers, Cebu City
	Free Clinic	Health Centers of Alabang in Muntinlupa, Ma. Clara in Sampaloc, Doña Aurora in Tondo, Esperanza in Sta. Mesa, Bagong Barrio in Caloocan, Icasiana in Paco, Manila, West Rembo in Makati, Candon in Ilocos Sur and Tugos in Sorsogon, Duhat Elementary School in Bocaue, Bulacan
Nov. 11, 2003 Tue.	11th Annual Residents' Research Forum	Astoria Plaza, Pasig City
	National Support Association for Psoriasis Patients, Inc. General Assembly	Astoria Plaza, Pasig City
	Lecture on Basic Care for Healthy Skin, Hair & Nails	Kaunlaran Health Center in Valenzuela & Francisco Health Center in Caloocan City
	Free Clinic	Marikina City Health Office, Regional Health Office in Mexico, Pampanga & Holy Rosary Minor Seminary in Naga City
Nov. 12, 2003 Wed.	1st PDS Leprosy Forum	United Laboratories, Pasig City
	Free Clinic	Health Center of Pamplona II in Las Piñas, Health Offices of Batangas & Lipa City
Nov. 13, 2003 Thurs.	27th Annual PDS Convention	Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City
Nov. 14, 2003 Fri.	27th Annual PDS Convention	Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City
	Free Clinic	Tagaytay City Health Office
Nov. 15, 2003 Sat.	Free Clinic	City Hall of San Pablo, Lourdes Northwest Health Center, Angeles City

PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY "1952"

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 1, 2003
All Saints Day

1st Reading: Rev 7:2-4, 9-14
2nd Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-3
Gospel: Mt 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and began to teach them:

"Fortunate are those who have the spirit of the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Fortunate are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.

"Fortunate are the gentle, they shall possess the land.

"Fortunate are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

"Fortunate are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

"Fortunate are those with a pure heart, for they shall see God.

"Fortunate are those who work for peace, they shall be called children of God.

"Fortunate are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Fortunate are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God. This is how this people persecuted the prophets who lived before you."

Commentary

"Fortunate are those who have the spirit of the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." While writing this reflection, a news came out regarding Mother Theresa of Calcutta. An Archbishop in India revealed that during one of Mother Theresa's confinement in a hospital, the doctors could not explain her abnormal behavior and inability to sleep at night. So, an exorcism was done and after that she was able to sleep soundly. Some were saying that this may affect the on-going canonization process. A saint is not one without a sin. A saint is not one whose experience is above the reach of ordinary human beings. A saint is someone who is aware of his/her limitations and sinfulness and allows God to save him/her. A saint is someone who is poor in spirit, knows that everything comes from God and depends totally on God's grace. He or she is nothing and God is everything.

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Joe de V losing sleep over Davide impeachment

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—The normally voluble speaker of the House has admitted losing sleep over the latest imbroglio to hit Congress.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., otherwise known as Sunshine Joe for his congenial style of leadership, said he has hardly had any sleep since Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. was impeached by a one-third vote of the House membership on Oct. 23.

Since then, amid calls from different sectors to withdraw the impeachment complaint, Congress toughened its stance and vowed to press the case after the Supreme Court issued a status quo order against the House.

De Venecia and 22 other congressmen then met and said they had decided to push through with the impeachment case and would transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate when Congress resumes sessions on Nov. 10.

De Venecia admitted he got irked by the status quo order because the House and the high court were discussing a settlement in the impasse at the time.

"I delayed the transmittal (of the impeachment complaint) so that a settlement could be worked out, so that the 80 congressmen would withdraw (their signatures). Three justices were amenable but they changed their minds and in the midst of working out the settlement, the Supreme Court issued a status quo order. It was treacherous and so the congressmen lost their cool," he said.

In the interview over local radio station dzST on Thursday, De Venecia also described as "crazy" allegations the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats party had "sacrificed" Davide to the Nationalist People's Coalition so that the latter's members in Congress would not oust him from the speakership.

"*Kalokohan yan* (That's crazy). Why should I create a big problem for myself? We had just won the admiration of the world in our reception of [US] President [George W.] Bush and we got plenty of help from him for the country. Why destabilize the country with the impeachment case?" he said.

De Venecia said he was only defending the integrity of the House.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)/POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)—Stop-and-frisk—A stop-and-frisk was defined as the act of a police officer to stop a citizen on the street, interrogate him, and pat him for weapon(s) or contraband. The police officer should properly introduce himself and make initial inquiries, approach and restrain a person who manifests unusual and suspicious conduct, in order to check the latter's outer clothing for possibly concealed weapons. The apprehending police officer must have a genuine reason, in accordance with the police officer's experience and the surrounding conditions, to warrant the belief that the person to be held has weapons (or contraband) concealed about him. It should therefore be emphasized that a search and seizure should precede the arrest for this principle to apply. This principle of "stop-and-frisk" search was invoked by the Court in Manalili vs Court of Appeals. In said case, the policemen chanced upon the accused who had reddish eyes, walking in a swaying manner, and who appeared to be high on drugs. Thus, the court upheld the validity of the search as akin to a "stop-and-frisk." The foregoing circumstances do not obtain in the case at bar. There was no valid "stop-and-frisk" in the case of accused-appellant. To reiterate, accused-appellant was first arrested before the search and seizure of the alleged illegal items found in his possession. The apprehending police operative failed to make any initial inquiry into accused-appellant's business in the vicinity or the contents of the Zesto juice box he was carrying. The apprehending police officers only introduced themselves when they already had custody of accused-appellant. Besides, at the time of his arrest, accused-appellant did not exhibit manifest unusual and suspicious conduct reasonable enough to dispense with the procedure outlined by jurisprudence and the law. There was, therefore, no genuine reasonable ground for the immediacy of accused-appellant's arrest. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People vs Sy Chua, G.R. Nos. 136066-67, February 4, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

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'OLD NEWS'

GMA pooh-poohs 'poor' investment report on RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has dismissed as "old news" another international assessment of the Philippines which gave the country a poor rating.

"This is recycled news. We do not need international rankings to teach us or prod us on good governance," said Ms Macapagal in a statement.

The Philippines fared poorly as an investment site in the latest Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum due to widespread corruption.

The report showed the Philippines slipped from number 63 to 66 in the growth competitive index (it was second to last among Asean countries, ahead only of Indonesia) and tumbled from number 61 to 64 in the business competitiveness index (it was dead last among Asean countries). Asean is the Association of South East Asian Nations comprising 10 countries in the region, including Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

The report, which ranked 102 countries based on a poll of business leaders worldwide, noted that 22 percent of the respondents felt that corruption was the biggest problem about doing business in the Philippines.

The country also fared poorly in terms of public trust of politicians (number 94), diversion of public funds (88), favoritism among government officials (84), subsidies (78) and judicial independence (73).

"It is unfortunate that this group has come up with this analysis of perceptions without taking into account what we have done to address the issue through reforms and sanctions," the President said.

"We have accepted the challenge of fighting corruption and we are doing something about it. This is being done by directly weeding out the undesirables in the bureaucracy and in setting up effective procedural safeguards against graft," the President said. "We shall not be put down and we shall forge on."

The President had recently downplayed another report, Transparency International findings, that ranked the Philippines high among the world's most corrupt nations.

She also recently disputed the United States Embassy's economic outlook on the country, saying: "The US Embassy report grossly errs in stating that we have not made significant inroads in poverty alleviation and combating corruption."

9 die in Benguet accident

BAGUIO CITY—At least nine people were killed when the jeepney they were riding in plunged down a 200-meter ravine along the Halsema Highway in Buguias, Benguet late Friday afternoon, the INQUIRER has learned.

Officers at the Benguet police station in the capital town of La Trinidad said sketchy reports indicated five other passengers were hurt in the accident in Barangay Sab-il, in a perilous portion of the Halsema Highway that connects Baguio to the vegetable farms of Benguet and Mt. Province.

Police had no names of the victims and other details of the accident as rescue teams had yet to return to La Trinidad as of 6 p.m. yesterday.

Buguias is four hours away by land from this city. The town is surrounded by hills and mountains, making cellular phone communications difficult.

The INQUIRER learned that members of a radio communications group based in Buguias alerted police and rescue workers about the accident past 5 p.m. yesterday.

According to the Associated Press, the driver of the jeepney lost control of the vehicle as it was descending a winding mountain road outside Buguias.

AP quoted provincial police chief Senior Supt. Conrado Minano as saying the vehicle was carrying members of a family from Bauko town in Mt. Province who were heading to Buguias for an out-of-court settlement of a criminal case. *Vincent Cabreza and Toots Soberano, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, AP*

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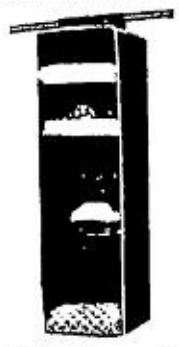
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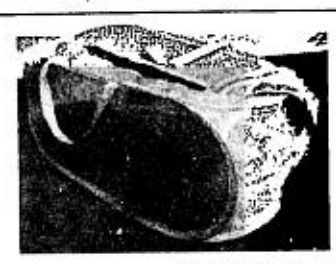
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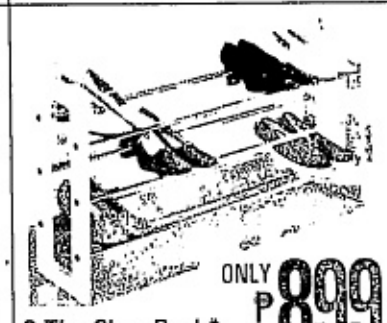
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Cemetery guard fears the living

From page A1

side the 2.5-hectare cemetery, which he jokingly calls "Barangay Kampo Santo."

"But I risk my life over a lot of law breakers like robbers and drug dependents who use the cemetery as a drug den or a shortcut to freedom," said Arriesgado in Filipino.

Arriesgado had been a barangay tanod (village watchman) in Makati's Barangay Kasilawan for some 20 years when he was offered the post at the cemetery eight years ago amid scary warnings from older barangay officials.

"They told me that ghosts, *aswang* [witches], even *manananggal* [vampire-like creatures] abounded at the cemetery, but that did not scare me," said Arriesgado.

He said he accepted the job because watching over a "dead barangay" was more challenging than looking after a "living one."

Alone

But unlike Barangay Kasilawan where the tanod is recognized as the neighborhood authority, thieves and criminals can quite easily challenge and overpower a lone watchman in a dark graveyard, he said.

He said that even though he has the help of three other barangay officers during the day, they go home to their families at night.

"So I have to fend for myself and protect this cemetery alone during the most dangerous time—at night," Arriesgado said.

His only weapon is a *batuta*, or night stick.

"That's why I have to use hypnotism in controlling the bad people," he said with a laugh.

He later explained that hypnotism also meant diplomacy in dealing with criminal elements.

Sniffing in the dark

His duties often extend to physically running after thieves who climb over the cemetery walls to escape or reprimanding volatile drug addicts who "sniff their stuff" in the dark corners of the cemetery.

"I deal with these people as peacefully as I can, then I ask for help from the nearest police precinct," said Arriesgado, who has to be careful to protect himself and his family.

Aside from guard duty, he also performs administrative services at the cemetery. He helps people to find the graves of their loved ones, takes care of burial permit renewals and issues certifications to people wishing to transfer their dead to other cemeteries.

Squatters, too

He also has to keep out squatters bent on building shanties inside the graveyard.

Arriesgado said he feels that he is more useful to the community at the cemetery rather than in a regular barangay where there are many other officers around to serve the people.

The caretaker said the cemetery has a special meaning for him because it is where he met his wife, Gemma, three years ago.

"I met Gemma, the sister of one of the tomb carpenters, during a tumultuous time. I told her about my problems and she agreed to marry me when my first wife and I separated," he said.

Arriesgado said he was married to a woman from Barangay Kasilawan for 13 years. He said the marriage fell apart when he learned about his wife's drug habit.

Living in mausoleum

He brought his new wife and adopted son to live with him in one of the cemetery's vacant mausoleums. This way he is able to save money and live close to his job.

Arriesgado said that aside from his P7,000 monthly salary, the family gets added income from a small sari-sari store that his wife operates at the cemetery gate.

Guts

Even though he could have engaged in other occupations like driving, masonry and carpentry, Arriesgado said he chose to be a tanod because he believes he can do more for others in this job.

And if made to choose between Barangay Kasilawan and Barangay Kampo Santo, he would still choose the latter.

"There are plenty of people who could be tanods of normal barangays, but not all have the guts to watch over a barangay of the dead," Arriesgado said.

"Of this fact, I am proud," he added with a smile.

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Tropical storm dampens All Saints Day

From page A1

"Tropical Storm Viring has gained more strength as it continues to move on a west northwest track towards Northern Luzon," Pagasa said yesterday.

Public Storm Signal No. 2 has been raised over Cagayan Valley and Isabela and is expected to have winds of 60 to 100 kph while Public Storm Signal No.1 has been raised over Catanduanes, Camarines Provinces, Quezon, Aurora, Quirino, Nueva Viscaya, Ifugao, Mt. Province and Kalinga Apayao and is expected to have winds of 30 to 60 kph.

GRANDCHILDREN visit their grandparents' tombs at the South Cemetery in Makati City. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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GMA on Erap: No political deals . . .

From page A1

law. The Sandiganbayan has exclusive jurisdiction over this matter, and we shall carry out its decisions without hesitation," she said.

Estrada spokesperson Crispin Remulla also denied speculation that the Palace had initiated reconciliation efforts. But he said there were government moves to "keep [Estrada] healthy."

Remulla also raised fears that given the possibility that Estrada would be allowed to leave for the United States, the government could block his return to the country during the elections.

Risking paralysis

Estrada's physicians at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center led by orthopedic and spine surgeon Antonio Ma. Calanoc insisted that his knee and back therapy was not yet complete.

In a news briefing held an hour before Estrada was taken back to the military camp, Calanoc said the ex-President would have needed about three weeks of therapy.

According to Remulla, Estrada is willing to risk paralysis from the waist down rather than undergo a knee operation here.

Remulla also warned of dire consequences should Estrada's condition worsen: "This government will suffer more if something happens to the President."

Noel Malaya, one of Estrada's court-appointed lawyers, also warned that the situation could turn explosive should the ex-President stick to his decision not to undergo surgery here.

Malaya said he and his co-counsel would file a motion Monday reiterating Estrada's motion last year to be allowed to undergo a knee-replacement operation in the United States.

"If the President decides not to get operated on here and opts to suffer in silence, then we will leave it to the people to decide if something happens to him," Malaya said.

Like Superman

Calanoc said Estrada could suffer the same fate as "Superman" actor Christopher Reeve, who became paralyzed from the neck down after falling from a horse.

Asked how soon paralysis could set in if Estrada was not operated on, the doctor said it would come "sooner than later."

Calanoc said Estrada's arthritic knees have greatly affected his ability to walk, and this lack of movement has caused his spine to be "deformed" and his spinal cord to become "strangulated."

He presented an X-ray supposedly showing Estrada's condition—a result, he said, of the "internal knee derangement" that the latter has been suffering for years.

"There is a clear danger of the President getting paralyzed from the waist down," he said, adding that Estrada must immediately undergo a knee operation.

Asked when the surgery should be done, Calanoc said: "It should have been done yesterday."

The king

Rodrigo B. Floro, Asian Hospital's vice president for medical affairs, admitted that the facility has the capability to perform the knee surgery that Estrada requires.

But Floro said he respects Estrada's decision to undergo the operation under a doctor of his choice: "We are going to honor the patient's bill of rights. The patient is the king."

Estrada has insisted that Dr. Christopher Mow, a surgeon at the Stanford Medical Center in California, perform the operation.

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Priest gets jail term for sexual misconduct

From page A1

who handled the case, succumbed to a heart attack weeks after he sentenced Rev. Fr. Nardo Cayat last Oct. 3.

A court employee believed the case to have been "God-given" to Buena because "God allowed him to finish it before he passed away."

Court records obtained by the INQUIRER showed that Cayat pleaded guilty to charges of forcible acts of lasciviousness against a woman who belonged to a political family in Benguet.

Cayat had befriended the victim who had promised to sponsor one of the priest's trips abroad.

Stealing kiss

But in the course of their friendship, Cayat tried to "steal a kiss" from the woman, the records showed.

When the priest's sexual advances became more physical, the woman filed charges against Cayat. She cited an incident when the priest allegedly wrapped his arms around her and fondled her breasts.

Court records showed that Cayat tried to explain his actions before the mandatory barangay conciliation meeting by insisting that he offered the woman an intimate relationship to "rescue her from sin."

The priest claimed the woman was gay.

No contest

When the case was elevated before the court, however, Cayat no longer contested the charges.

In his decision, Buena noted that Cayat pleaded guilty to the charge despite having been advised by his lawyer and the court of the consequences of such plea.

Buena acknowledged Cayat's petition for probation, noting that the priest voluntarily surrendered to the court and had pleaded guilty.

His ruling gave Cayat provisional liberty pending a 60-day review by the Bureau of Probation on the priest's petition.

Priest suspended

Fr. David Ganggangan, secretary to Bishop Carlito Cenzon of the Baguio-Benguet vicariate, said Cayat has been suspended and allowed to return to his parents in Buguias, Benguet.

He said the Commission on the Clergy was awaiting the conclusion of all of Cayat's legal affairs before it makes its own ruling.

Cenzon is in Rome and is unavailable for comment.

Ganggangan said Cayat had submitted himself to the new rules on sexual harassment which the country's priests drafted following the sex scandals that had rocked the local Catholic Church.

The rules are applied independently from the guidelines set by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Ganggangan said.

LETTER FROM A JUDGE

Wimpy, remember your grandpa and his virtues

NAGA CITY—On this special day when many Filipinos remember their dearly departed, remember your grandpa, Wimpy.

This, in brief, was the message of Judge Nilo Malanyaon of the Regional Trial Court in Pili, Camarines Sur, to Rep. Felix William Fuentebella, principal proponent of the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Malanyaon reminded the youngest member of the House not to forget the virtues of his late grandfather and namesake, former Camarines Sur Gov. Felix Fuentebella.

This is what the judge, a longtime friend of the family's, said in a letter—in an apparent attempt to persuade the lawmaker to withdraw the complaint against the Chief Justice:

"My Dear Wimpy-forgive me if I address you in this very informal way... [but] you have virtually invited [us] all to call you 'Wimpy' [with] your streamers strewn all over. I'm certain you will not take offense.

"Tio Elis and Pading Noli [Wimpy's father, former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella-Ed.] have been gifted by our people with their trust and their love; I know these gifts were bestowed because your forebears have always been courteous to our people. Indeed, I have never known the elder Fuentebellas to have acted out of turn or spoken and acted out of spite... I have always held them in high esteem.

"What I want to tell you is that the elder Fuentebellas possessed what I consider man's greatest virtue—tolerance. They always had the suspicion that the other fellow with whom they disagreed might be right, after all; so they were very careful to study their facts and their law.

"They subjected the validity of their own views to the competition of the market, and bowed to the will of the people."

Secrets of the law

Malanyaon also said he was looking forward to the day when Wimpy would pass the bar examinations:

"I will be happy to welcome you to the profession of the law; and for you, as for all the lawyers of Camarines Sur, my offer stands: When you pass the bar, find time to see me in my chambers and in Pili, and over very good brandy and tastefully cooked *pulutan*, I will tell you some secrets of our profession. But right now, I will tell you two—humility and compassion."

The judge urged Wimpy to have the humility to study the law on impeachment and the House's own rules on impeachment, as well as "the compassion to treat our Chief Justice with the respect that is his due."

"You belong to a great institution, the House of Representatives. I belong to the judiciary, the weakest among the three departments of our government," the judge said, adding:

For governor

"Do your duty to the House and our people, as you see it, and by your deeds help it regain its luster. I am happy to do mine, to defend our Chief Justice, and the judiciary, from attacks which I consider without factual and legal bases because our Chief Justice represents our institution, the guardian of the rule of law."

Although he has not yet formally announced his plan to run in the 2004 elections, Wimpy reportedly wants to follow in the footsteps of his late grandfather as governor of Camarines Sur.

"Do you know why Representatives Cho Roco, Nancing Alfelor and Nonoy Andaya of the second, fourth and first districts of Camarines Sur have not chosen to join your efforts to impeach our Chief Justice? Do you not feel lonely?" the judge said.

Malanyaon also promised to say a prayer before every session in his sala so that Wimpy would be able to read and reply to his letter. *Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Senate split on Davide impeachment

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

EVEN THE SENATE is divided on how the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. should proceed.

Opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Joker Arroyo were "abdicating their responsibility to defend the institutional integrity of the Senate," after both said the Supreme Court should be the one to settle the issue of constitutionality.

Angara said the Senate should resolve the issue because impeachment was a "political" matter. Being a political problem, it requires a "political solution (rather) than a legal solution," he added.

"Impeachment is the exclusive province of Congress and by design, courts are excluded from it," he said in a phone interview.

Another opposition leader, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., said only the Senate could put an end to the madness that was threatening to spin out of control.

Pimentel said that senators, as agents of the nation's highest lawmaking body, should be allowed to "rise to the occasion" because they "can throw away the impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. right away if it is found infirm."

Pimentel said that should the House of Representatives transmit the Articles of Impeachment in defiance of the Supreme Court status quo order, the Senate can choose to immediately dismiss them.

He said that as the impeachment court, the Senate could do so "right away if the charges against him are found to be not impeachable offenses or if it suffers from serious constitutional infirmities."

"It is within our powers to do that. The impeachment court has full powers to determine and decide whether the action of the House of Representatives is right or wrong," Pimentel said.

While the prospective senator-jurors aired their views, six more congressmen asked the high court to stop the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

In a resolution, the Supreme Court granted the motion to admit Reps. Raul del Mar of Cebu, Oscar S. Rodriguez of Pampanga, Edwin C. Uy of Isabela, Manuel N. Mamba of Cagayan, Laurence B. Wacnang of Kalinga, and Solomon R. Chungalao of Ifugao as additional petitoners in the case against Davide's impeachment.

They joined six other petitioners, including Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez and Ilocos Rep. Salacnib Baterina, who had earlier questioned the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice.

In the same resolution, the SC also appointed former University of the Philippines College of Law Dean Pacifico Agabin, who had lawyered for deposed President Joseph Estrada, as another friend of the court to help the SC in the impeachment case.

A group of lawyers in Pangasinan also asked the SC to cite the House of Representatives in contempt if it persists on transmitting the impeachment complaint to the Senate when it resumes session on Nov. 10.

The lawyers said transmission of the impeachment case was already a "clear defiance" of the high court's status quo order.

"The lawyers of Pangasinan consider the fires which it (the defiance of the status quo order) kindles as constituting a criminal contempt and usurpation of the constitutional power of the Supreme Court as the final arbiter of all constitutional issues," the statement drafted by retired Court of Appeals Justice Teodoro Regino read.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Pangasinan also threw its support behind Davide.

But a private lawyer has asked the SC to junk the petitions against Davide's impeachment and just let the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, try the case.

Lawyer Jaime N. Soriano asked the high court on Thursday to "take a cold stand" on the case to stop the constitutional crisis.

Soriano said that while he believed that the impeachment complaint against Davide "suffers from constitutional infirmities," the Senate, acting as an impeachment court, has "the sole power to try and decide all the cases of impeachment."

"As an impeachment court, the Senate can properly entertain a motion to dismiss after the transmission of the Articles of Impeachment to the body... The Senate, having vested itself with the legal personality of a court of law as an impeachment court, certainly enjoys the concomitant and inherent power to determine the constitutional sufficiency of the second impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice, even before proceeding with the trial of the case," Soriano said.

He said that allowing the impeachment proceedings to proceed "is more in keeping with the Rule of Law and our system of constitutional democracy."

Soriano said that the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint case against the Chief Justice was also "not yet ripe for judicial determination." *With reports from Cynthia Balana, Carlito Pablo, Philip Tubeza; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

10 days to work on 17 Lakas . . .

From page A1

NPC chair in South Cotabato, yesterday threatened to bolt the party if evidence would show that Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, head of the Nationalist People's Coalition, was behind Davide's impeachment.

Fuentes told reporters that local party members had also agreed to leave the NPC "if and when we are convinced that it is Danding Cojuangco who manipulated all of these things against Davide."

Rep. Arthur Pingoy Jr. (NPC, South Cotabato) denied that he had received P5 million in exchange for his signature in the complaint.

"I studied the matter carefully and was convinced that the move to impeach Davide was substantial," Pingoy said.

5 Bicol governors

In Naga City, five Bicol governors led by Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur denounced the impeachment complaint initiated by Rep. William Fuentebella (NPC, Camarines Sur) as a "blatant abuse of power and a disgraceful act of which Bicolanos are ashamed."

The other governors who voiced support for the Chief Justice were Raul Lee of Sorsogon, Jesus Typoco Jr. of Camarines Norte, Anton Kho of Masbate and Leandro Verceles of Catanduanes.

"The impeachment case is obviously politically motivated and intended to protect vested interests with pending cases before the Supreme Court," said Villafuerte, national chair of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

"This is a very drastic move that will not only create a constitutional crisis but also derail important government programs and scare investors, thereby adversely affecting the economy," he said.

Lee pointed out the Commission on Audit had not found anything wrong with the expenditures of the JDF.

"Legislators cannot assume inherent COA functions just to pursue their own vindictive agenda against the Supreme Court, which has decided in the coco levy fund case against [Cojuangco]," Lee said.

Irresponsible

Villafuerte also said Fuentebella's "errant and irresponsible move" would be "the death knell to his political ambitions" as well as those of his father, former Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella, "who is obviously behind the maneuver."

"We will carry directly to the people of Camarines Sur and the Bicol region this mark of notoriety of the Fuentebellas," Villafuerte said.

Typoco said young Fuentebella had recklessly antagonized the coconut farmers because their chances of recovering the coconut levy fund had been jeopardized.

The Bicol governors also said thousands of coconut farmers in Bicol were on the warpath and were planning to mount protest actions against the initiators of the impeachment, particularly young Fuentebella.

Mass for Davide

In San Fernando, Pampanga, some 2,000 residents gathered at 3 p.m. yesterday for a Mass concelebrated by seven priests at the Metropolitan Cathedral to support the Chief Justice.

Fr. Pablo David urged the assembly "not to be fooled" by the impeachment complaint, and said: "The only way to restore order in this government is to support the few decent ones in the government."

Nuns, students, local officials, and members of civic, transport, labor and nongovernment organizations attended the Mass.

Outside the cathedral, hundreds more waited, holding placards bearing the statement "Save Davide. Save Democracy. Save the Country."

Pampanga's 3 signatories

At the succeeding rally that also drew judges, lawyers and court employees, Angeles City Councilor Alex Cauguiran warned that the prevailing crisis was emboldening anti-democratic forces to seize political power.

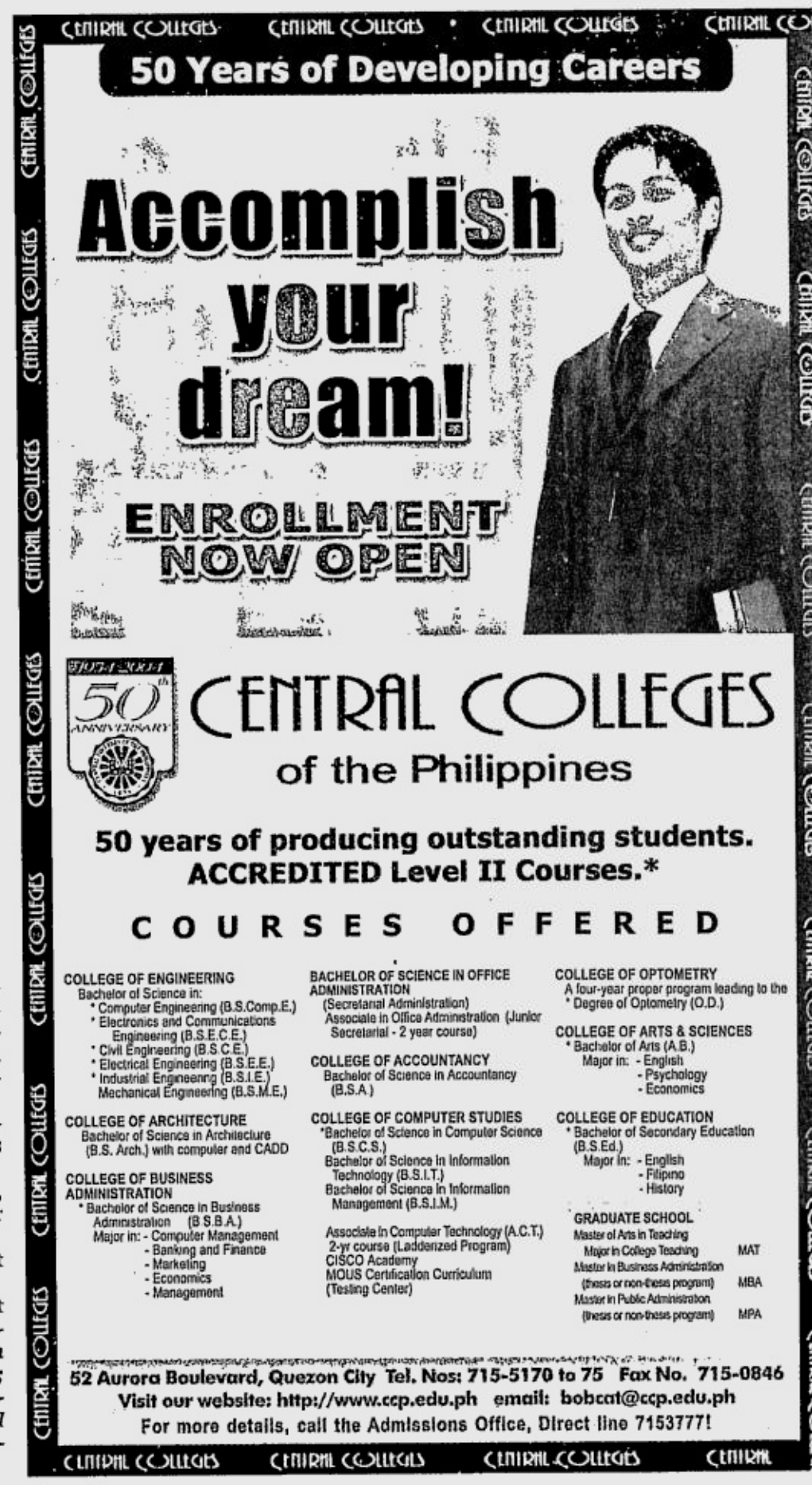
Cauguiran, also the spokesperson of the Coalition for the Advancement of the Promises of Edsa, assailed the three Pampanga representatives who had signed the impeachment complaint against Davide: Juan Pablo Bondoc, Zenaida Cruz-Ducut and Francis Nepomuceno, all of the NPC.

The Social Action Center of Pampanga (Sacop) displayed streamers condemning the three lawmakers.

Fr. Deo Galang, Sacop director, said the three "do not represent our sentiments."

He also said the issue at hand went beyond Davide.

"We need to save our government because it is bent toward self-destruction," the priest said. *Reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila; Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



'Vacuum of leadership'

From page A1

"I hope and pray" that before Congress resumes sessions on Nov. 10, "something can be done by the [House]," he said.

Noise barrage

The Chief Justice was at the RGMA 7 studio in Cebu City where he was interviewed by a panel of journalists and "Debate" hosts Oscar Orbos and Winnie Monsod who were in Quezon City.

As the interview was going on, Davide's supporters led by the Citizens for Judicial Independence (CJI) were at the ABS-CBN compound in Barangay Jagobiao, Mandaue City, for the live telecast of "Dong Puno Live," where the impeachment complaint was being discussed by pro- and anti-Davide camps.

At least 400 people converged on the ABS-CBN compound on board 10 buses owned by the Cebu City government and 30 private vehicles. They conducted a noise barrage on their way to the TV station from Fuente Osmeña.

The Cebu Citizens Involvement in Maturation and People's Empowerment for Liberation (C-Cimpel) announced plans to hold vigils and mass actions to protest Davide's impeachment, and conduct a campaign to educate the public on the issue.

The C-Cimpel, a member-organization of the CJI, is Cebu's counterpart of the National Movement for Free Elections.

Settlement

Only on Thursday, think tanks said President Macapagal-Arroyo was becoming a lame-duck leader after she failed to stop congressmen belonging to the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats from signing the complaint against Davide.

The President has called on Congress and the Supreme Court to forge a settlement compromise to defuse the crisis.

In Cebu City, Rep. Clavel Martinez yesterday said Davide was amenable to the proposal of reaching a covenant with the House if the executive department would intervene.

Davide told GMA 7's late-news program "Saksi" that there was still a chance for the crisis to be settled.

SC didn't create crisis

"I suppose that it is just a matter of genuine interest and sincerity [on the part] of the parties involved," he said.

"The withdrawal of the complaint is the sole prerogative of [the signatories] upon realization that a mistake had been committed. The [high court] did not create the crisis. It is the legislature—the Lower House—that created it, and it should find a way to solve the crisis itself," he said.

He said the Articles of Impeachment should not be transmitted to the Senate because the complaint against him was the second within one year, "and therefore a banned and prohibited impeachment."

"It should be stopped at the very source—the Lower House," he stressed.

Only P27,000 each

The impeachment proponents had accused Davide of, among other things, allowing the purchase of chairs for the tribunal costing P120,000 each.

Davide countered that the charge was "totally baseless and false" because the chairs cost P27,000 each and were bought in Angeles City.

He also said that the Supreme Court had closely followed PD 1949—the law that created the Judiciary Development Fund—in the disbursement of the JDF. The law states that 80 percent of the fund should go to the cost-of-living-allowance (Cola) of court employees, and the remaining 20 percent to office equipment and facilities.

Exceeded limit

To the charge that he had diverted the funds intended for the employees' Cola to buy expensive court office equipment, Davide said: "The 80 percent has been devoted entirely to the Cola. As a matter of fact, the finding of the Commission on Audit would show that in the totality of the distribution of the 80 percent, it even exceeded the limit [and] went as far as 89 percent.

"On the other hand, the 20 percent for office equipment and facilities had been completely restricted to these purposes."

He also dismissed the allegation that the allowance received by court employees had lessened. He said employees might have gotten this impression because the allowances were now distributed monthly rather than quarterly or semi-annually.

"It was only after my time, I think about September of 2002, that the distribution was done on a monthly basis. We did it on a monthly basis so our people can immediately receive the allocations out of the 80 percent," he said.

Davide's son

The Chief Justice also denied the charge, which is not included in the impeachment complaint, that he was guilty of nepotism for appointing his son Joseph Bryan Hillary to several court committees, including that concerned with bids and awards.

"There is nothing anomalous, irregular or illegal," he declared. "I am entitled to designate somebody of confidence... Besides, the work of the committee is recommendatory, and all of its actions are subject to the approval of the court en banc."

He added that the heads of the tribunal's second and third divisions helped him in designating the members of the committees.

Did not read contents

Davide said he had learned from "very credible sources" that the impeachment complaint has not even been seen by the signatories, and that "only very few actually took their oath before the [House] secretary general," in violation of impeachment procedures.

"So technically speaking, very much less than the so-called one-third required of the entire [House] membership had actual knowledge of the contents," he said.

He also said the complaint was "prematurely filed" because the House committee on justice was still investigating the alleged questionable disbursements of the JDF.

"And finally, a clear reading of the complaint for impeachment would readily show that it does not at all charge any impeachable offense. Congress should never have acted on it," he said.

No third party

Davide rejected suggestions that a third party mediate between Congress and the Supreme Court, adding that no less than the Commission on Audit had cleared the JDF disbursements.

"The Supreme Court is not above the law," he said. "You have the [COA], which is constitutionally mandated to audit all transactions in the government and disallow any extravagant, irregular, anomalous transactions. ...We should first yield to this constitutional body instead of threatening a justice or justices with impeachment on a matter that initially is within the control of the judiciary, and the exercise of its fiscal autonomy."

Finish probe

Davide said that the commission had audited the JDF "in accordance precisely with the terms and conditions set forth in PD 1949," and that Congress should refer to the COA report.

"As a matter of fact, the [House] committee on justice subpoenaed the COA for the ... documents in support of the JDF and its audit," he said. "As a matter of fact, right now, the ... investigation is still pending in the committee. It should finish that investigation. However, and very unfortunately and sadly, with probably some motives, some people tried to preempt the work of the committee."

Political motivations

Davide said his impeachment was "an attempt with political motivations and for the preservation of certain economic interests."

"There are many vested interests who could be affected by decisions of the Supreme Court, and probably these people would not want me to be there because they cannot twist my arm," he said.

He also said that when certain congressmen received complaints about the JDF, they should have forwarded these to the high court for investigation.

He likewise denied former President Joseph Estrada's allegation that he had vigorously lobbied for his post.

"I never asked him to appoint me. I was not in a hurry for any appointment because that was the prerogative of the President," Davide said.

Covenant

Martinez said she spoke with Davide when they boarded the same flight to Cebu early Thursday morning. She said Speaker Jose de Venecia had urged her to speak with the Cebuano Chief Justice and come up with something "to avoid a head-on collision [between the House and the judiciary]."

Davide flew to Cebu to stand as sponsor to a wedding. He returned went back to Manila yesterday.

"Davide proposed to me that we can have a covenant but only if we have a representative from the Office of the President," said Martinez, one of the 11 House prosecutors in Estrada's impeachment trial over which Davide presided.

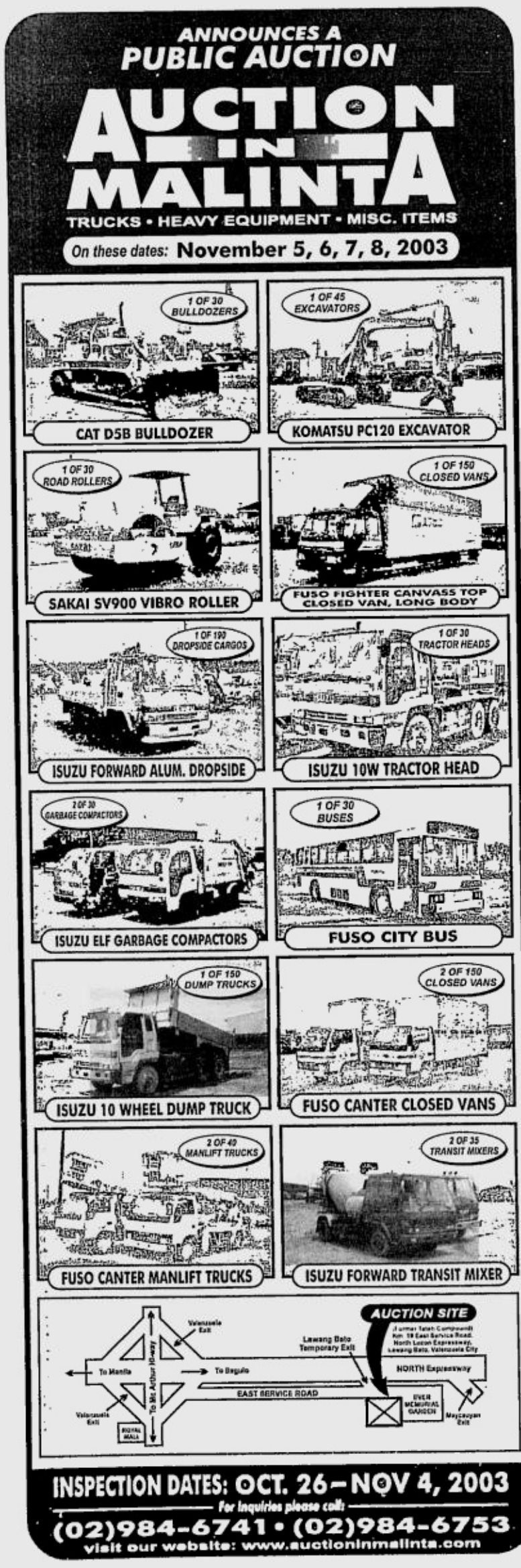
Unyielding

Martinez said De Venecia had advised her to inform Davide to prepare a draft proposal "so there would be a starting point" in the negotiation.

She expressed confidence that the covenant would be forged between the judiciary and the legislative on or before Congress resumes its session on Nov. 10.

But Martinez also said the stand of the House was not to yield to the dictates of the Supreme Court.

"We can't allow the Supreme Court to interfere in our internal rules," she said. "It would set a dangerous precedent [that the court can lord over Congress]. *With reports from Connie E. Fernandez and Suzzane B. Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau*



GMA: Presidency as middle force is stronger

From page A1

issued strict orders to the Armed Forces: Account for all the troops.

The INQUIRER story on the alleged weakening of the President's grip on power drew an uncharacteristically heated response from a Cabinet secretary.

"Why did you make it your banner?" asked Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman. "It's all just speculation and not information; it only increases the anxiety of the stock market."

"It doesn't help the situation at all and only exacerbates the crisis," Soliman added.

Can't be hysterical

Yesterday's story led off with a Reuters report quoting Earl Parreno, a trustee of IPER, as saying that the President was "increasingly becoming a lame duck leader."

But the spokesperson of the ruling party Lakas-CMD came to the President's defense. Unlike other presidential candidates, Ms Macapagal could not afford to be "hysterical" and outrightly partisan because she is the "President of all the people," presidential adviser Heherson Alvarez said.

Alvarez said Parreno misjudged Ms Macapagal and did not see the "subtlety" in her actions as President and as a "political protagonist."

"The President could not be part of the madding crowd. She cannot be hysterical like other presidential aspirants because she is the President of all the people. She has to stand in the balance and act as a statesman so that she can mediate for a solution," Alvarez said.

Monopoly of morality

Alvarez said that while others could take sides, this did not give them the "monopoly of morality." He also noted that the President did not heed the call of the House for a special session, because this would be used to hasten the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment.

While the President stays in the middle, Alvarez said, her political officers were "moving" to help prevent the crisis. He pointed out that it was he, as Lakas official, and his wife Cecille Guidote-Alvarez who mobilized the pro-Davide rally at the Batasan complex which former President Corazon Aquino attended.

"Do they (the critics) think we're sleeping? We organized the rally and that is part of the subtlety of the presidency," Alvarez said.

Target Roco

While Alvarez, an ex-senator like Roco, refrained from mentioning the presidential aspirant by name, Lakas congressmen did not feel any need for restraint.

THE PRESIDENT works the crowd that greeted her when she inaugurated the port expansion project in Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City. VAL HANDUMON

They hit Roco as a political opportunist who was riding on the impeachment issue only to earn free publicity.

Representatives Prospero Nograles of Davao City, Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City, Aurelio Umali of Nueva Ecija, Exequiel Javier of Antique and Augusto Syjuco of Iloilo said Roco had no business putting the blame on the President.

Rep. Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur said that instead of helping defuse the tension, Roco and other critics of the President were heightening it. "Roco continues with his tyrannical ways and these could prevail if ever he gets elected," he said.

Pichay stressed that Roco's nitpicking was out of bounds, particularly at a time when the country needed to unite to put an end to the controversy.

"I renew my call for our lawmakers and Chief Justice Hilario Davide to cool off during the congressional break and restudy their positions in order to avert a constitutional crisis," Pichay said.

Puentevella said it was hypocritical of Roco to blame the President when he himself was accused of dictatorship and graft and corruption at the education department. "He who has no sin should cast the first stone," said Puentevella.

On Thursday, Davide went out of his way to thank Roco in public, for coming to his defense.

Not take sides

In her statement, the President noted that she had been urged to take sides in the crisis. But Ms Macapagal, who attended Mass on the Supreme Court grounds on Monday to show her support for Davide, said taking sides will only aggravate the problem.

"I am taking the middle ground because as President and Commander in Chief, I must keep the powers of government at an even keel. I shall keep the peace and protect the people whatever happens in the midst of this transient clash of powerful institutions and no quarter can force me to take sides," she said.

She said she would continue to pursue a principled solution, which she said is in sight.

Too late

But opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said it was already "too late" for the President to stay neutral, because she had already made her position known when she joined Davide at the Monday Mass early.

"She could have helped in resolving the issue, being the leader of the biggest political party in the country," Angara said in a phone interview. "She shouldn't (have been) embarrassed to exercise leadership over her colleagues." Ms Macapagal is chair of Lakas. But Angara said the President has "forfeited" that chance to intervene now.

The President, however, said she could change her position if the crisis deepened.

"There is hope in dialogue and we shall continue to pursue it while keeping our options open. We have the flexibility to change track if called for by the imperatives of national security," she said.

She did not spell out her other options.

Not out of control

She took pains to say that the impeachment crisis had not spun out of control. The President said her order to the AFP—reminiscent of a similar instruction issued before the Magdalo mutiny—was merely a "crisis mechanism" to prevent another destabilization attempt.

"Part of that crisis mechanism being in place is an instruction I am giving to (Major) Gen. (Cristolito) Balaoing—account for all the men in the Fourth Division," she said in her speech before Mindanao businessmen.

"This is also my instruction to all the division commanders all over the country," she said.

Apolitical

"I shall not overreact to events as I call upon our people not to be unduly alarmed," she said.

In Camp Aguinaldo, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia assured the public the military would not take sides. "We are not going to get involved in any political issue. That is our mandate under the Constitution," Garcia said.

He was echoed by Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, chief information officer, who said that the officials, officers and men of the Armed Forces would never resort to "military adventurism" even in the face of a political crisis.

"The military will not entertain such kind of invitation. Being a constitutional AFP, we will stick to the rule of law and respect the chain of command. So expect the AFP will be apolitical and will not indulge itself in a political exercise," he said. *With reports from Cynthia Balana, TJ Burgonio, Volt Contreras, Christine Avendaño; AP, AFP*

"DA KING": Cold feet goes with cold beer.
JOAN BONDOC

FPJ worries over his lack of political experience

From page A1

But the actor denied that he was vulnerable to such pressure.

"*Hindi naman ako nape-pressure*[I don't feel pressured]," he told the INQUIRER.

TV host German Moreno, who seemed to be asking Poe about his political plans, was warned: "*Pare, wag kang maingay tungkol dyan. Andito ang media* [Be careful what you say about that topic, pal. The media are here.]"

'Back to basics'

An unidentified male guest advised Poe that he should use the motto "Back to basics" as his campaign theme, should he decide to run.

"Address the country the way you address your household," put in another guest.

Poe, who was wearing a brown leather jacket over a pink-colored shirt, arrived at the party with his actress-wife Susan Roces.

The couple was immediately surrounded by press photographers and movie cameramen who had been invited to cover Rama's party.

Throughout the party, Roces stayed in the ballroom surrounded by women guests like former Sen. Nikki Coseteng, talent managers Ethel Ramos, Dolor Guevarra and Shirley Kuan, and Gina de Venecia, the wife of House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Poe stayed at the bar talking with a group of male guests, until former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada arrived at about 11 p.m. Poe and Estrada immediately headed for the ballroom.

Too much attention

A source close to the couple explained that Poe and Roces decided to sit apart and keep away from each other "because they felt that together, they are attracting too much attention, more than the birthday celebrator."

The couple left the party at midnight to visit the grave of Poe's father, actor-producer Fernando Poe Sr., at the North Cemetery in Manila, the source said.

Last Thursday, Poe had lunch at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel with Sen. Vicente Sotto, who has been deputized by the opposition to persuade Poe to run.

The actor was said to have told Sotto that he was not sure about making an announcement regarding his candidacy.

On Oct. 25, thousands of Poe's supporters and fans had filled the 12,000-capacity Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City to celebrate the first anniversary of the Filipinos for Peace, Justice and Prosperity Movement (FPJPM). They waited for their idol to declare his election plans.

Shocked

But Poe, who arrived at 7 p.m., stayed only long enough to tell fans that he hoped to return their devotion someday. "*Sana po isang araw makakaganti ako sa inyo* (I hope someday I can repay you)," he said.

After the non-declaration, Poe was presented with documents supposedly bearing the signatures of two million Filipinos urging him to run for President.

"I was shocked at the number of people who came that night. To think that they were not even sure that I would show up. They were only there to celebrate their first anniversary," Poe told the INQUIRER in a mixture of Filipino and English.

Some of the other movie stars at the Rama party were Dolphy, Rudy Fernandez, Bob Soler, Diana Zubiri, Jean Saburit, and Rama's husband, Eddie Gutierrez, and sons, Richard and Rocky.

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SA LEGAL NA KURYENTE,
LIGTAS ANG IYONG ARI-ARIAN. Dahilan din ang mga ito ng pagkasira ng kasangkapan dahil sa dinaraanang power fluctuations o ang di maayos na daloy ng kuryente. Unti-unting sinisira nito ang mga delikadong mekanismo sa loob ng iyong mga kagamitan. Kaya't imbes ang buhay ng mga kagamitang pinaghirapan ninyong ipundar

ISANG PAGBIBIGAY-
LIWANAG
TUNGKOL SA
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UN pulls foreign staff out of Baghdad

BAGHDAD—The United Nations Thursday followed the Red Cross in announcing it would pull its foreign staff out of Baghdad, while Washington said it was dispatching 24 more diplomats to Iraq in an image-boosting effort.

At the Pentagon, a defense official said a former Iraqi general and key henchman of Saddam Hussein is believed to be coordinating attacks in Iraq by foreign fighters and Saddam loyalists.

The UN announcement followed a similar one by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which said it was slashing foreign staff in Iraq after a truck bomb killed two of its employees and devastated its Baghdad offices on Monday.

"We have asked Baghdad staff to come out temporarily for consultation with people from headquarters on the future of our operations," said UN spokesperson Marie Heuze in Geneva.

The United States glumly accepted the withdrawals, conceding it could not argue with the rationale behind the decisions.

"Everyone, every individual and every organization has to decide for themselves what they're going to do and how they're going to conduct themselves," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told reporters in Washington.

"There's no doubt that terrorists are attempting to drive them out. And it appears that, at least with respect to some organizations, they're being successful." "There aren't short-term fixes to these problems," he added.

At the same time, the US State Department said it would send two dozen more diplomats to Iraq to boost the US image throughout the country amid increasing popular resentment of the occupation.

Spokesperson Richard Boucher said all 24 would be trained in "public diplomacy" and would supplement the 53 US diplomats now on the ground in Iraq working in the Coalition Provisional Authority and with the interim government.

Officials said the diplomats, all volunteers, would be stationed in each of Iraq's 18 regions and would be charged with explaining and promoting US policies in the country and throughout the world, officials said.

A US television network meanwhile aired a captured Iraqi videotape showing gruesome scenes of prisoners being tortured and executed under the regime of ousted president.

Fox News aired parts of the tape, recovered in Iraq by the US Army's 308th Civil Affairs Brigade, showing a man's tongue being cut out, another man being hurled from the roof of a building, and yet another kneeling to be beheaded.

At the Pentagon, Rumsfeld was not surprised, saying he had already seen another such tape which was not released to the public. *AFP*

China, Nokor agree to new 6-way nuke negotiations

BEIJING—China and North Korea agreed in principle on Thursday to hold a new round of six-way talks to defuse a crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, Chinese state television said.

Wu Bangguo, head of China's parliament and number two in the Communist Party hierarchy, met North Korean leader Kim Jong-il in Pyongyang on the second day of a three-day visit, the television said.

Kim accepted an invitation from President Hu Jintao to visit China at a "convenient time," it said without elaborating.

The North's KCNA news agency said Pyongyang had told Wu's delegation it was willing to hold further nuclear talks if the negotiations would lead to a package solution.

China hosted an inconclusive round of talks in late August with North Korea, the United States, South Korea, Japan and Russia to try to end the standoff.

"The DPRK side expressed its willingness to take part in the future talks if they provide a process of putting into practice the proposal for a package solution based on the principle of simultaneous actions," KCNA said, referring to Pyongyang's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Chinese underscored the "need to simultaneously clear up the concerns of the DPRK-US sides without fail," KCNA added.

The United States, which has talked about a series of steps including possibly giving North Korea security guarantees to help resolve the crisis, played down the idea of simultaneous actions but said North Korea was free to make its proposals. *Reuters*

SMOKE rises over the Julian area Oct. 30 from a huge inferno besieging the outskirts of San Diego, California. The death toll from wildfires roaring through California rose to 22 as they chewed up 291,501 hectares and destroyed more than 3,000 buildings. AFP

Weather cooler, but California fires rage on

LOS ANGELES—Cooler weather on Thursday gave firefighters some relief in their 10-day-old war against blazes that have swallowed up vast swathes of parched California, destroying towns and killing at least 22 people.

But while cold air, moisture and a sprinkling of rain replaced the hot, dry "Devil winds" that have driven the deadly flames across the south of the most-populous US state, the battle to control one of the worst fire disasters in California history was far from won, officials warned.

An army of 14,468 firefighters are battling the 17 wildfires that have so far ravaged 3,000 sq. km of southern California, obliterating 3,179 buildings, including 2,535 houses.

"The numbers just keep going up," said Larry Benson, spokesperson for the fires' southern command center. "Yesterday (Wednesday) was not a good day for us.

"But we have got good news in the form of lower temperatures and higher humidity which is helping us, but it won't put out the fires and we still have a lot of hard work in front of us."

Firefighters managed to get a firmer grip on the fires, with levels of containment rising to between 30 and 70 percent, with just one major blaze—in San Bernardino County east of Los Angeles, roaring nearly out of control.

But two more deaths were confirmed Thursday as a result of the fires that have now killed 16 people around the southern city of San Diego, four deaths in San Bernardino and two across the border in Mexico.

The blazes have now chewed up a 300,027-hectare zone of the state, from the Mexican border to north of Los Angeles, costing around $2 billion so far, officials said.

Hollywood icon and California governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger cut sort a two-day visit to Washington, where he pleaded for more federal disaster relief for the state, to race back to tour the stricken areas.

Leaping up mountainsides and exploding through hectares of drought and insect-hit forest, the fires have devastated valleys and overrun entire towns.

Firefighters late Wednesday lost their battle to save ritzy communities around the popular mountain resort area of Lake Arrowhead where some of Hollywood's top stars have weekend homes. *AFP*

US economy rockets to 19-year high growth pace

WASHINGTON—US economic growth unexpectedly bolted to a blistering annual pace of 7.2 percent in the third quarter, the fastest in 19 years, the government said Thursday.

The world's biggest economy roared past Wall Street analysts' forecast for six percent growth in gross domestic product, hitting the highest speed since 1984.

News of the rapid acceleration from a modest 3.3-percent expansion in the previous three months will ignite hope that the United States can lead the world out of years in the doldrums.

"They are just fantastic figures. It means the economy soared in the third quarter," said BMO Financial Group senior economist Sal Guatieri.

Consumer spending, business investment, the searing housing market and a rise in exports led the charge in the third quarter, the commerce department said.

Among the key figures: • Final sales, a measure of demand in the economy, soared 7.8 percent, the steepest increase since 1978.

• Consumer spending surged by a six-year record 6.6 percent, including a stunning 26.9-percent increase in purchases of big ticket "durable" goods such as cars or washing machines.

• Residential investment, housing, leapt 20.4 percent, a seven-year record.

• Businesses boosted investment in equipment and software by a three-year high of 15.4 percent.

• Exports of goods and services advanced 9.3 percent while imports edged up only 0.1 percent. *AFP*

KHODORKOVSKY

Russia freezes shares of jailed tycoon in oil giant Yukos

MOSCOW—Russia froze a controlling stake in oil giant Yukos belonging to jailed tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky and his allies on Thursday in a dramatic escalation of a confrontation between the Kremlin and big business.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also replaced his chief of staff, deemed sympathetic to Khodorkovsky, in another sign that Kremlin "hawks" were gaining ground in a drive to reassert state control and better control coming elections.

Putin assured a group of investment bankers the seizure of the Yukos shares did not signal a change in his commitment to a market economy, Morgan Stanley International's chair said after the talks.

But the scale of the drama, unprecedented since Russia's switch to capitalism from communism nearly 12 years ago, sent financial markets skidding and aroused fears that investors would pull money out of the country.

The move by state prosecutors stops Khodorkovsky, Russia's richest man, and his allies from cashing in or transferring their controlling interest in the country's biggest oil company.

"The shares are only sequestrated. Nobody confiscated them.

It is not a question of confiscation or nationalization of the shares," Natalya Vishnyakova, a spokesperson for the prosecutor's office, said on Russia's First Channel.

Yukos spokesperson Alexander Shadrin said the state had blocked 44 percent of the company's shares owned by Khodorkovsky and his allies although they retain rights to vote and dividends.

"This is unalloyed bad news," said Paul Luke, head of emerging market specialist Convivo Asset Management. "We are hearing a number of big foreign investment funds are starting to take out money."

Interfax quoted Putin's spokesperson saying he accepted the resignation of chief of staff Alexander Voloshin, seen as leader of a Kremlin faction who rose under Putin's predecessor Boris Yeltsin and have close ties to the business elite.

Business leaders had worried he would be replaced by one of the rival hardline Kremlin faction—most of whom come from the security services and were appointed by Putin, a former KGB spy.

But the new chief of staff, Dmitry Medvedev, is seen as a moderate, pro-business figure. He hails from St. Petersburg, like Putin, but does not have a security service background and has business experience as chairman of gas giant Gazprom. *Reuters*

Study: Firms doing business in Iraq, Afghanistan were Bush poll backers

WASHINGTON—Firms doing US government-funded business in Iraq and Afghanistan donated more to President George W. Bush's 2000 election campaign than they gave any other politician in the past 12 years, said a new study released Thursday.

Researchers at Washington-based watchdog group the Center for Public Integrity said US contractors with multibillion-dollar contracts to rebuild the war-torn countries also enjoyed influential military and political connections.

The report did not accuse the firms or US agencies of corruption.

It detailed more than $500,000 in donations to Bush's 2000 campaign coffer from 70-plus US firms and individual contractors now active in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The same donors have garnered up to $8 billion in reconstruction business, the report said.

Many deals were not put out to tender as contract-issuing agencies—chiefly, the Pentagon, state department and US Agency for International Development—said needs were too urgent to allow for time-consuming competitive bids, the report said.

State department spokesperson Richard Boucher said the agency had yet to review the report in detail but rejected key findings and the implication of impropriety.

"People in senior positions have no influence over the decision (to award a contract). The decisions are made by career procurement officials," Boucher told reporters.

"There's a separation, a wall, between them and political-level questions when they're doing the contracts, and the contracts are evaluated for technical merit as well as for the lowest cost."

Contrary to the report, key Iraq contracts were open to competitive bidding, he added.

For example, 10 firms were invited to compete for a contract ultimately awarded to California-based construction giant Bechtel Group Inc. after it and six others vied for the deal, Boucher said.

The contract to restore Iraqi utilities, telecommunications and transport infrastructure, schools and hospitals was valued at just over $1 billion.

According to the Center report, Bechtel and other contract recipients have been well-connected.

"Nearly every one of the 10 largest contracts awarded for Iraq and Afghanistan went to companies employing former high-ranking government officials or individuals with close ties to those agencies or Congress," the study said. *AFP*

BEARD AND MUSTACHE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Gerhard Knapp, of Germany, one of 80 delegates of the Association of German Beard Clubs, gets off the train in Reno, Nev., Oct. 30, to attend the World Beard and Mustache Championships. The World Beard and Mustache Championships will be held in the United States for the first time in history when Carson City, Nev., hosts the event Nov. 1. AP

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Malaysia's Mahathir exits; Abdullah sworn in

KUALA LUMPUR—The end of an era was marked in Southeast Asia Friday as the region's longest-serving elected leader, Mahathir Mohamad, stepped down and Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was sworn in as Malaysia's prime minister.

MAHATHIR

In contrast to Mahathir's often controversial 22 years in office, the formal handover of power was performed with quiet dignity in a nationally broadcast ceremony before King Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin at the royal palace in Kuala Lumpur.

Abdullah, 63, took the oath of office as Malaysia's fifth prime minister since independence from Britain in 1957 as Mahathir, 77, followed through on a pledge to retire first made 16 months ago.

After the ceremony the two men were due to travel separately to the prime minister's office in the new administrative capital of Putrajaya south of Kuala Lumpur.

At 4:45 p.m., Mahathir was due to clock out, using the punch card system he introduced for civil servants a month after becoming prime minister in July 1981.

On Monday, Abdullah will clock in at 8:15 a.m. after spending the weekend in his home state of Penang.

Mahathir's last day as premier was marked both by bouquets and brickbats, as were his two decades in power.

Local newspapers published massive supplements of lavish praise for the outgoing premier, but he was snubbed by Australian Prime Minister John Howard and criticized by the United States congress.

Howard said in a radio interview he had no farewell message for Mahathir, who has regularly dismissed Australia's bid to be accepted as part of Asia, describing it recently as "some sort of transplant from another region."

In Washington, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in condemning Mahathir for his remarks at an Islamic summit in mid-October that Jews rule the world by proxy.

Mahathir acknowledged in one of his final news conferences that his legacy was a controversial one.

Asked how he would like to be remembered, he said he did not mind if he was forgotten, but added: "They will not forget all—as Shakespeare has said, 'the evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones'"

The "good," though, was the focus of Friday's media tributes, one of which described Mahathir as "the greatest Malaysian alive."

Echoing the grudging acknowledgment of even his critics, the New Straits Times said: "No one can dispute his central accomplishment of transforming Malaysia from an agricultural backwater into a rapidly industrializing economy and manufacturing powerhouse."

Mahathir has been accused by some in the West of being a dictatorial Muslim bigot, but he has run a moderate multi-religious country and stepped down voluntarily with a democratic system, though criticized as flawed, still in place.

Abdullah will face general elections within a year, with the hardline Islamic Party presenting the biggest challenge to his United Malays National Organization, which has been in power since independence.

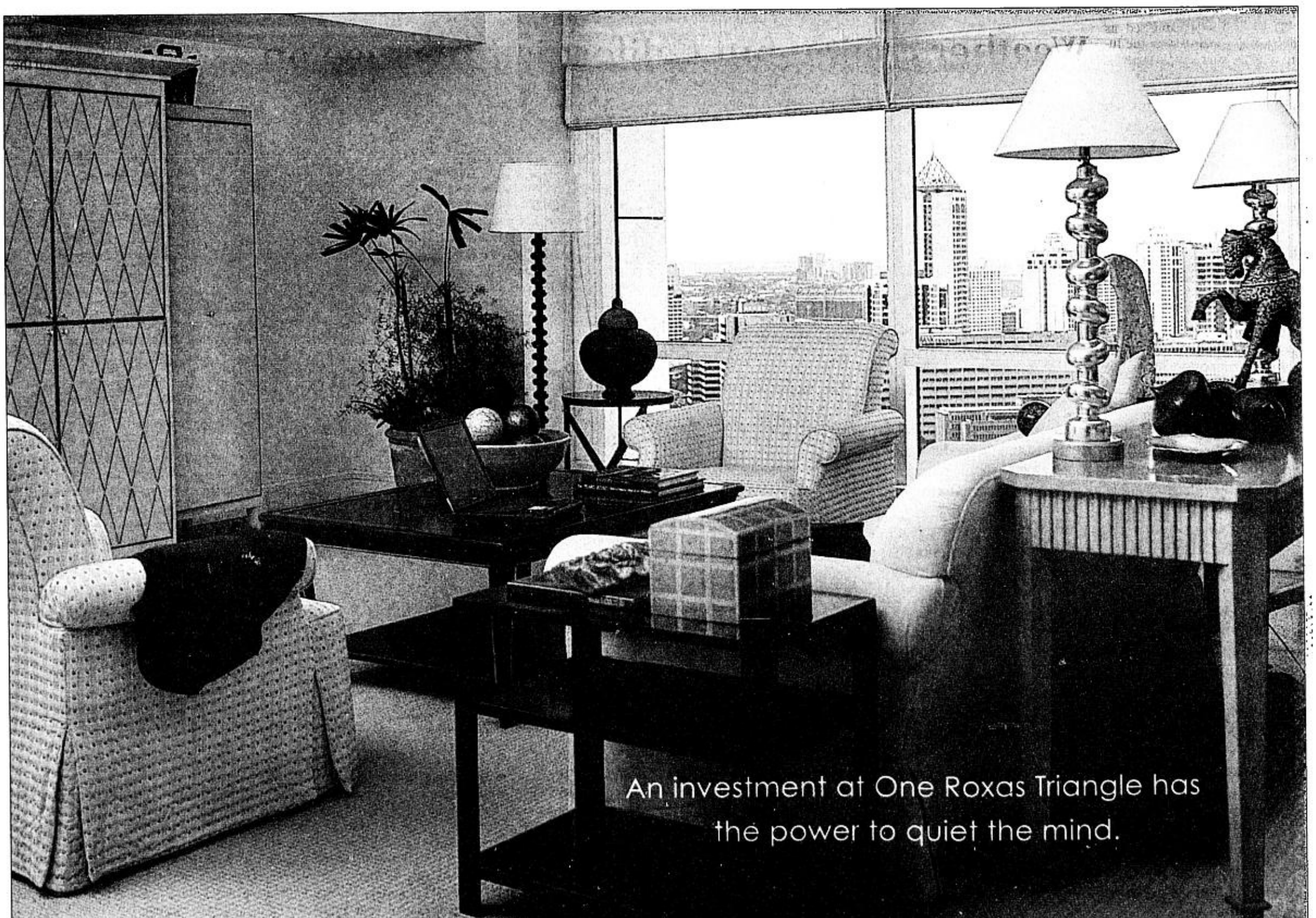
Mahathir's departure is part of a sweeping political makeover across East Asia, where a new generation of leaders is taking charge and several countries will hold elections within 18 months.

Mahathir, who came to power when Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher led the United States and Britain, outlasted contemporaries like the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Indonesia's ousted strongman Suharto, 82, and Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew, 80.

Abdullah will join a different breed of younger leaders exemplified by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, 54, Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo, 56, and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, 56.

The most obvious change in Malaysia, however, will be one of style rather than substance. Abdullah is not expected to make any radical changes to Mahathir's economic and social policies, at least in the short term, but he is quieter and less confrontational than his predecessor.

AFP



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Recipe for instability

THE REJECTION by the Commission on Elections of the application for accreditation of Namfrel to conduct a quick count in the 2004 elections confirms its well-known obsession to exclude that civic organization from the unofficial poll counting process. Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos stated the wrong reasons for the exclusion. He said that "with poll computerization in place," the Comelec thinks it does not need a citizens' arm "to keep an eye on the conduct of the 2004 elections." He said the Comelec is now capable of carrying out a quicker operation. "We cannot accredit Namfrel because it cannot do it faster than us."

EDITORIAL

Abalos is wrong on both counts. First, factually, computerization is not "in place." Secondly, it does not have the capacity to do a "quicker count." Given these inadequacies in the vote counting mechanism of the Comelec, there is little reason to be confident that the Comelec's "computerization" can deliver election results within a few days, much less hours, of the closing of the polls and that it can ensure clean and honest elections.

Given the politically turbulent circumstances surrounding the 2004 elections, it is extremely important that the elections be perceived to be free and fair, in order to give legitimacy to the next government. A failure of the elections, partly due to the Comelec's ineptitude, is a recipe for a post-election period of political turbulence.

There are signs that the Comelec's machinery is already faltering and that the poll body is ill-prepared to cope with the huge demands of conducting fair elections. As of last month, only 565,375 of an estimated 5.263 million new voters had registered and validated their registration. The registration ends on Nov. 9.

The Comelec has to register about 12 million new voters, 70 percent of whom are in the 18-21 age group. The new voters are in addition to the more than four million voters excluded from the voters' list in 1998 and 2001. Contrary to its claim that it can handle the registration of the enlarged electoral list, the Comelec has only made registration more difficult. A mass exclusion can fuel frustrations over the poll process as a mechanism for national renewal and can lead to a poll disaster with dire political consequences.

Rather than addressing the looming registration fiasco, the Comelec has given priority to trying to discredit Namfrel and scheming to stop Namfrel's quick count, which in 20 elections since in 1986, has shown up the inadequacies of the Comelec.

Abalos' claim that poll computerization is "in place" and that Namfrel's quick count "will not be needed because the Comelec will be using automated counting machines" is contradicted by the fact that automated elections will be implemented only in the National Capital Region, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the provinces of Albay, Bataan and Cebu, and the cities of Bacolod, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo. This area covers only 25 percent of the voters. Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion has warned that "trending" might result from holding automated elections in only these 10 areas.

To make up for this limitation, the Comelec plans to conduct its own unofficial count of uncanvassed precinct results, for which it will spend P300 million. The unofficial canvass has been done by Namfrel, at no cost to public funds. The Comelec's two-track counting—one official and the other unofficial—does not guarantee that Filipinos will get quick results of the national vote.

The Comelec faces a tricky problem with this plan. What if its unofficial results do not tally with the official results? Contradictory results can only erode confidence in the honesty of the election process and the official count.

The Comelec apparently considers Namfrel's quick count as competing with its own official tally. That is not correct. Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. has accurately described the role of Namfrel's quick count. He said that the quick count would serve as the public's watchdog against cheating in the tabulation of results.

The Comelec's convoluted plans will create more problems than those it seeks to solve.

Irresponsible leaders

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT'S alarming. It's preposterous. It's unbelievable even given the ridiculous state of our politics at present. But, Heaven help us, it's true.

The incredible report is that some of our supposedly responsible leaders are maneuvering to foist upon the Filipino people their respective choices of obviously incompetent persons as the next president of the Philippines.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, head of the opposition LDP and Estrada's failed running mate in 1998, is wooing as its standard bearer in the presidential election next year Erap's soulmate and possible replica in Malacañang. He is the popular Fernando Poe Jr., the uncrowned King of Philippine Movies and another idol of the *bakya* crowd.

Poe is well-known as a hard-hitting tinsel hero with his fast fists and his faster guns that are guaranteed to foil all his screen enemies. Angara probably thinks that Poe can knock out all his rivals in the political ring, where he is a complete amateur. Poe should know that there are more dirty tricks in this arena than in the movies where the bad guys fall flat on the director's cue. Sen. Vicente Sotto, who is probably eyeing appointive office when his present term expires, will try to persuade his fellow actor to follow in his shallow footsteps.

The problem is that Poe has neither the experience nor the qualifications to perform well as president of the Philippines. Erap was at least a college drop-out while Poe has not even finished high school and cannot spout the many "Eraptions" that many found cute. He may appoint bright advisers, it is said, but the danger is that the poor fellow might be naively "captive" to their own schemes. Then there is Poe's advancing age, which may have loosened his hold on movie fans from a younger and less impressionable generation who regard him as their "Lolo." On top of all this is the issue of his citizenship, which many are seriously questioning.

Not to be outdone, Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., who won much admiration for fast-tracking the impeachment of Estrada, is willing to gamble that prestige on his own *manok*. His candidate is Sen. Noli de Castro, who has been consistently topping practically all surveys of presidential probables. Kabayan is supported not only by Villar but by the other members of The Group of Five in the Senate, which includes Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto. De Castro has less credentials than any of them, but they all concede his superior vote-getting abilities.

De Castro is an independent who came out first in the last senatorial election without even attending any political rally. What he did was visit the public markets and other gathering places of the *bakya* crowd, with whom he is immensely popular. The only trouble is that, as in the case of FPJ, De Castro's hold on the masses does not translate to competence in public office, especially the highest office in the land. Now on his second year as senator, he has not made a single significant contribution to the enhancement of the national interest or even only to the image of the Senate.

De Castro continues to conduct his regular program in the employ of his bosses at ABS-CBN whom he is supposed to obey as a loyal employee. He is fluent in reading the teleprompter, but I have yet to hear him deliver an extemporaneous speech or debate with his colleagues in English on the floor of the Senate. Reading the idiot board is not an accepted credential of the statesman, and neither is De Castro's academic record. I am not an intellectual snob, nor have I any reason to be, but I respectfully submit that a person aspiring to be president of the Philippines should have more scholastic distinctions than mere literacy.

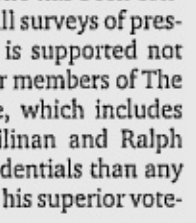
I hope that both Poe and De Castro will be humble enough to acknowledge their limitations and decline the tempting invitations to run for the presidency in 2004. For all we know, Angara, Villar and their colleagues are using the two as Trojan horses only to advance their own partisan interests to the prejudice of the people. Suggesting Poe and De Castro for the highest office in the land despite their known ineptitude is, in my opinion, the height of irresponsibility. Their backers should be patriotic enough to put the nation's welfare above all else, including their own.

As for Sen. Loren Legarda, whom I still regard as a friend although the feeling may no longer be mutual, let me say that she should not allow herself to be titillated by speculations that she will be invited to be the running-mate of either Poe or De Castro. They do not deserve her. Her political flirtations do not become her. My well-meaning suggestion is that she run for reelection and in due time, on the strength of her record in the Senate, accept the call to higher office, maybe even the highest.

It is no excuse that it is the people who will ultimately choose the next president because many of the voters must be taught how to choose. That is the responsibility of our leaders, who must not, for their own purposes, exploit the ignorance and pliability of the electorate. A leader must lead. A leader must lead as his conscience dictates despite the misplaced anger of the "hooting throng."

Scraping the bottom

GET REAL



Solita Collas-Monsod

THE MULTITUDE of issues now being discussed and debated in connection with the attempt to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. can be classified into three major groupings.

Into the first category would go all issues related to the legality/constitutionality of the House impeachment move. Ranged on one side of this issue are the complainants in Congress and their endorsers. On the other side, you have the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the Philippine Bar Association and the framers of the Constitution themselves.

A related issue is whether or not the Supreme Court has the authority to decide on the constitutional issues. But isn't that what it is mandated to do? And didn't the 1987 Constitution "untie" the hands of the Supreme Court with respect to "political questions," which inhibited the Court from questioning the declaration by Ferdinand Marcos of martial law? When Speaker Jose de Venecia talks about upholding the "political and territorial integrity" of the House, isn't that precisely a political question that the Supreme Court is now empowered to decide on?

The second set of issues has to do with the facts—the merits—of the impeachment case. The Commission on Audit says there are no material misstatements on the use of the Judiciary Development Fund, no violations. The complainants, using the COA figures, charge that there was "underpayment" of personnel allowances. Ergo, there is betrayal of public trust, there is graft and corruption.

Not so. The different conclusions are a result of wrong arithmetic on their part. To illustrate: The rule is that at least 80 percent of all collections for the JDF must go for personnel, and at most 20 percent for facilities and equipment. Suppose in Period I, P100 is collected, and P80 is distributed to personnel, and P20 is set aside for facilities, etc. Has the rule been followed? Yes, obviously.

Now comes Period II. Again, P100 is collected, and P80 goes to personnel, P20 goes for facilities. Has the rule been followed? The complainants say no. Their calculations show that only 67 percent has been distributed to personnel. That is because, they divided P80 by the sum of the P100 collection in the period and the P20 that was set aside in Period I.

No graft. No corruption. No betrayal of public trust. Just wrong arithmetic.

To justify their groundless impeachment of Davide, the complainants have mounted a costly publicity campaign aimed at destroying his reputation. These constitute the "garbage" issues. Examples: Davide is portrayed as an elitist, taking money from the poor (employees) and giving it to the rich (justices). This won't wash. Davide is the son of a school teacher, who used public transportation when he was in the Batasan Pambansa because he refused to kowtow to the powers that be and who lives modestly with a reputation for frugality. He set aside almost one-third of his Ramon Magsaysay Award money to endow a fund, the income from which is awarded to the most outstanding employees at each court level. Davide has been called a Giant Killer, because his Court, rightly or wrongly, has ruled against big guns whether in business (like Cojuangco) or in politics (like Mark Jimenez or Panfilo Lacson).

Then there are charges about a P120,000 chair, and P31 million worth of cars, not to mention the Baguio "mansions," and lavish drapes. Well, the P120,000 chair doesn't exist. Davide himself sits on a reupholstered chair previously used by now retired Justice Isagani Cruz. The "mansions" are two replacement houses and a staff house: the Court holds sessions in Baguio the entire summer. And the COA has Circular 85-55-A that exempts, among others, the Supreme Court and the Batasan Pambansa (as well as mayors, governors, bureau directors, department secretaries) from the rules on "extravagant" expenditures.

But whether Davide was "extravagant" or not can be determined from the car purchases. The same COA circular allows Supreme Court justices to buy Mercedez-Benzes or their equivalent. At 2002 prices, a Meredes costs about P4 million each, or P60 million for 15 cars. What was spent was P31 million for 19 cars, which, by the way, pale in comparison with the cars of most congressmen, if the ones I saw at the Batasan Pambansa are any indication.

A really low blow: Bryan, Davide's son and his chief of staff, has been dragged into the mud. It has been pointed out repeatedly that Bryan sits on the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) as well as other committees of the Court, implying nepotism at best, corruption at worst. What is **not** said is that it is SOP in most government agencies for confidential positions to be held by a trusted member of the family. What is **not** said is that the BAC has nine members, and there are two co-chairmen above him. What's **not** said is that he is there precisely to be the eyes and ears of the Chief Justice. What is **not** said is that in any event, the decisions of the committees are merely recommendatory, and the final decision is not even made by the Chief Justice, but by the Court en banc.

Even award-winning COA auditor Cecilia Caga-anan, a professional with 25 years of exemplary COA performance, is not spared. The complainants have played fast and loose with her reputation, asserting that she has a "pending case" and that she is a "distant relative" of Davide. Out-and-out lies.

Davide's detractors are scraping bottom. But if they think they can tarnish the Chief Justice's reputation by these accusations and insinuations, they've got another think coming.

Ask your congressman to withdraw signature

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THIS weekend, members of the House go back to their respective provinces for the traditional observance of All Saints' Day. I hope that citizens and the various religious, civic and professional organizations in the provinces will take time out to talk to their representatives who signed the impeachment complaint and convince them to withdraw their signatures. The 87 signatories have been nicknamed by legal columnist Jose Sison of the Star as the "Brazen Eighty-Seven," but the fact is that there are many decent elements among them who may be wavering, after hearing the truth about the allegations of graft and corruption against Chief Justice Davide, and the national outrage they provoked. A sincere appeal may do the trick. At the moment there appears to be no solution to the impasse between the Supreme Court and the House, and the country seems to be careening toward a constitutional crisis. The best solution is to get the lawmakers to withdraw their signatures (about a dozen withdrawals are needed). So, fellow citizens, if you love your country, get to work on your congressmen.

* * *

Many House members were up in arms over the Court's en banc "status quo" order issued to Congress and the various petitioners and respondents in eight petitions filed concerning the impeachment complaint. The House members felt that the Court does not have the power to order a co-equal branch to desist from transmitting it, and some hotheads have called for openly defying the order and boycotting the hearing scheduled on Nov. 5. But it was obvious that few of them read the resolution, for if they did, they would have realized that it was not an order but a gentle appeal. Its meat lies in one short paragraph which the court reportedly took over two hours to craft. As Sen. Joker Arroyo noted, the SC resolution was "not offensive; in fact it was very carefully crafted." The paragraph reads: "The Court calls on the petitioners and the respondents to maintain the STATUS QUO, enjoining the parties and all others acting for and in their behalf, to refrain from committing actions that would render the petitions moot." The words "call on" took the place of the usual imperious "order."

* * *

As former Senate President Salonga pointed out in the dzRH program Cecile Alvarez and I co-hosted recently, the ruling was a plea to "freeze the ball" and give everyone, including the Court, time to think over this crucial issue. In fact, he noted that the Court, in the same order, even asked some "friends of the court" (*amici curiae*) from various sides of the political fence to lend their thoughts on the issue, and help the magistrates think over this crisis that is hitting them for the first time in over 100 years. The *amici curiae* include Salonga himself as well as some lawyers known to be pro-Erap, such as Estelito Mendoza and Pacifico Agabin. As I see it, the ruling did not say the petitions filed before it are right or wrong, or that the Court has jurisdiction over the constitutionality issue. In fact, the Court could very well end up saying that that issue ought to be tackled by the Senate out of *delicadeza*. The House members ought not to take offense at the SC ruling. It does not gag them; all it's asking everyone is to take a little time. As Arroyo put it, "What's the hurry?"

* * *

I admire the high magistrates for their humility in asking for the opinion of topnotch legal minds from the pro-Erap, the pro-Danding as well as the pro-Davide sides. How I wish this virtue were found in the "Brat Pack," as the young, brash and impetuous House members from the Nationalist People's Coalition, led by Eduardo Cojuangco's two sons and nephew, who filed the impeachment complaint against Davide, have come to be nicknamed. The members of the Brat Pack look so arrogant and know-it-all. It seems power has gone to their heads. The courageous Party-List Rep. Etta Rosales is right: these kids have had it all so easy—money, power, position. Now they relish taking on no less than the Chief Justice *para mukha silang siga*, unmindful of what their action is doing to the country. As I said earlier, these kids remind many people of the Magdalo group, who would mutiny, under prodding from their political patrons, due to some complaint against Angelo Reyes or Victor Corpus, never mind if it destroys the economy.

By the way, among the allegations of the NPC group is that the session armchairs used by the SC justices cost P120,000 each. Davide categorically denied this at the "Debate" program last Thursday. He said they cost only P25,000 each and were purchased from a local manufacturer, since the imported ones cost too much.

* * *

One of the points that have to be resolved by either the Supreme Court or the Senate is the issue of the constitutionality of the impeachment complaint. The debate centers on whether the constitutional prohibition against a second complaint being filed within the year was violated with the filing of the second complaint this October, after a first one filed last June. The question is, what constitutes an "initiated" complaint, with the House ruling that it's deemed "initiated" after voting is done in the justice committee, or if the one-third vote of the entire membership is secured. Davide argues with members of the Constitutional Commission who drafted the Constitution that it is initiated the moment it's filed in the House. Star legal columnist Jose Sison brings out, however, a new point: the House proponents are confused over "impeachment case" and "impeachment proceedings." He says what the Constitution prohibits is the initiation of the impeachment proceedings, not just the impeachment case, and it's clear that two proceedings were initiated this year.

Before Sept. 7

YOUNG BLOOD

Ina Alleco R. Silverio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

MY dad, Florentino Silos Silverio, died last Sept. 7 of an aneurysm. He was 55. He would have been 56 last Oct. 16. Days before that day, instead of panicking over what book, CD, shirt or shoes we would get him, my mother and elder sister Majalla gathered fragile, yellow flowers to put on his grave in Santiago, Isabela. Yellow was my father's favorite color.

He gave me my name. I was six when he first told me what my mouthful of a name meant: "Ina" means "Little Girl" (I forget in which language. When he gave my kitten Mariah her name, he said it meant "wind."); "Alleco" is the combination of the first name and surname of a dear friend, political officer Alexander Cristoforo who was killed during martial law; and "Allende" is obviously lifted from the name of Chile's President Salvador Gossens Allende who was assassinated by orders of the United States government.

He took charge of my religious upbringing. He taught me the tenets of Buddhism, Islam, Confucianism and Judaism when I was growing up. He didn't allow me to be baptized in the Catholic Church right away, making my mom afraid her youngest daughter would go straight to hell. Papa always said children should be allowed to choose their religious beliefs, if they wanted to have any. He said children should be taught the differences between ideology, faith and religion first—these and the differences between religions right down to the historic and political contexts that formed them.

For a time I wanted to practice the Jewish faith. I had read "The Diary of Anne Frank" and liked the idea of Hannukah, with the dreidels, potato latkes and shining brass menorahs. But then Dad told me all about Gaza, the anti-Zionist movement, the Palestinian struggle and how young children fought alongside their parents with bows and arrows, rocks and slingshots to defend their side of the border.

Then I wanted to be a Buddhist, and got interested in the idea of reincarnation. I was ready to shave my head and walk around with a begging bowl. But Dad said I was too picky with food, and much too headstrong and proud to rely on the kindness of strangers. He also said that there was such a thing as class exploitation, and if reincarnation were true, most of the cockroaches and other pests must be big businessmen and landlords in their original lives feed off the sweat of others. What clinched the argument for me, though, was his warning that if I were ever to reincarnate, given all the headaches I had caused my *yayas*, I'd be reborn as a tick or a termite.

I never seriously considered turning Muslim because, though I admired Mohammed from the stories Papa told me, I thought wearing a *jellaba* in 35 degree weather would suffocate me. Also, Papa said that studying Islam required intelligence and patience, and I was nowhere near having either of them. Mostly though, he said that I would most likely sneak out to eat bacon.

Thus, my mom won and I became Catholic when I was 11. A former seminarian, Papa told me stories of St. Francis de Assisi, St. John the Beloved, and his personal favorite saint, St. Therese, The Little Flower. And as if to put the fear of God in me, at night he narrated all the ghost and monster stories he'd ever heard growing up in the province: about the *mambabarang*, the *kapre*, the *tikbalang* and the *mandurugo* who butchered children caught playing outside the house between 1 and 2 p.m. and mixed their coagulated blood to strengthen the cement used on the foundations of bridges.

I saw my father doing and being many things when I was growing up. He was a political analyst and researcher/writer for the Department of National Defense (it's a long story how he got there from being a member of Kabataang Makabayan and a seminarian), a teacher of sociology and world history, a cat and dog lover, a guitar player, a farmer, a speed reader, and an ambidextrous writer. He cooked the best chicken *sopas*, *ginisang munggo* and instant *pancit canton*. He was a fiercely competitive chess and scrabble player, never conceding a single point to his exasperated daughters. He sang to the '60s, danced to the '80s, read Neruda, Sartre, Gandhi and Kafka, and ably explained the intricate plots of early afternoon Mexican telenovelas. He also used to do impressions of politicians and Sammy Davis Jr.

When I made my decision not to pursue a career for the income I would earn but instead joined the movement of the oppressed and exploited, Papa did not stop me. He had always been a romantic, a dreamer—someone who spent his youth with farmers in Isabela and squatters in various communities in Manila. He raised us to be independent, to decide for ourselves, and to not be attached to material things. He looked at me, asked me if I was sure, told me to be careful and never do anything that would cause my mother pain or anguish.

But of all the things I learned from Papa, the most important thing was love. Even when he was rubbing alcohol and mercurochrome on the wounds I got because of clumsiness in the playground, he was firm but gentle, and I never cried. I grew up without being squeamish about saying "I love you" to my parents.

He taught us that by example. There were times when my sister and I would pretend to retch whenever he expressed sweetness to Mama. He used to bring her flowers—stolen from our neighbors' hedges and vines. He called mom "Sweetheart" and me "Palakol" or "Pating" on account of my tendency when I was still a child to bite people whenever I got upset. As for Ate Majalla, he called her simply that: Majal, or Love. Their relationship was much sombre than ours was. Ate Majalla's a geek.

It happened on a Sunday morning. I was at the office, working overtime to finish Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran's privileged speech on the people's position regarding the World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun, Mexico. I was thinking how great it was that Papa taught me how to form idea outlines in my head, and how to organize sentences fast when I had a deadline to beat. The aircon was humming quietly, and the mug of tea I was drinking was still sending up fragrant fumes. I felt alive, productive, my father's daughter. The phone rang and I heard my sister's voice breaking on the other line.

He was the strongest influence in my life, and I loved him very, very much.

The heart stops briefly when someone it loves dies,
a quick pain as you hear the news
and someone passes from your outside life to inside.
Slowly the heart adjusts to its new weight,
and slowly everything continues, sanely.

Ina Alleco R. Silverio, 27, is chief of staff of Rep. Crispin Beltran. She majored in journalism at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She is sure here father will read this article and be pleased with it.

Women of Butuan

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I KNOW I've declared that maybe it's about time we just closed shop and declared the Philippines bankrupt. But that was born out of disgust at the antics of a number of our congressional representatives who acted in consort to impeach the Chief Justice and destroy just about the only remaining public institution with some credibility and respect.

I mean, if our so-called political leaders could be so reckless and malicious, then what's the use of keeping faith in our nation-state, right?

Wrong. The past few days, I've met people who've shown me that they not only continue to believe in the Philippines and have faith in the future, but also by their example provide reasons even for cynics like me to continue to hope and believe in the worth of the Filipino.

I've just returned from a "lightning" trip to Butuan and Gingoog, principally to attend the graduation rites of an adult literacy program known as "Project Kasanag."

"Kasanag" means light, and it's the name given to the city literacy program of Butuan. These particular graduation rites, however, had a personal meaning for me and, I'd like to think, for the graduates.

In August last year, Agnes Carlos, who heads the city's Gender and Development Program, brought me to Barangay Pianing where the city government and our women's organization Pilipina was jointly funding a program for the Manobo Tribal Women's Association. Aside from the adult literacy program, they had also started transforming a small plot of land which had been used as a garbage dump into a garden showcase. There were also plans to start livelihood programs for the barangay women. I was a guest in the program that marked the launch of the projects, and I was witness to the women's eagerness to organize and indeed empower themselves through literacy and economic independence.

* * *

NOW, a year later, the first batch of adult learners who had finished all 11 modules were to graduate, and it was only fitting that I be on hand to witness this milestone.

With Abansel Pinay secretary general Remmy Rikken, Agnes, Pilipina Cagayan de Oro chair Dina Anitan, other "Pinays" and friends from Butuan, we motored to Pianing, some 30 minutes or so from the city, down a dusty lane, until finally we arrived at the site of the Tribal Women's garden showcase.

I was dazzled by the change that had taken place. What was once bare earth with a few plants struggling to survive was now a garden abloom with asters, santan, bandera espanola, chrysanthemum and even orchids. Their humble hut, which they used as a classroom, was decorated with white curtains on which were pinned blooms of varied colors.

But the brightest sight of all were the women's faces, as they broke out in smiles at our approach, holding themselves a little straighter, receiving our handshakes with a tad bit more confidence than I remembered from my last visit.

Margarita Cano, the tribal women's leader, brought me to a display of beads threaded through a makeshift loom which, she explained, was their next livelihood project, and if they could get the necessary funds, she said, they could even buy a real loom and begin making cloth with Manobo designs.

* * *

WHEN Butuan City Mayor Daisy Plaza arrived, we all headed for the barangay hall where 95 graduates from Barangays Pianing and Antongalon were to be handed their certificates of completion.

Joining us onstage was City Councilor Dino Sanchez and Bgy. Pianing chair Virginia Golandrina.

Agnes, the project head, explained the mechanics of the project and introduced the "parateachers," barangay women who assisted the paid teacher in instructing their neighbors on the basics of reading and writing.

Three graduates offered their responses, and while the other two were only barely able to manage expressing their gratitude, one graduate spoke of her pride at finally being able to speak publicly, and not only that, to hold her own and express herself. As a Manobo child growing up in the mountains, she said, she had been taught by her parents to run away and hide the second they spotted strangers, especially Christians, approaching. "They said we would be kidnapped," she explained. That is why, she said, they had long ago learned to fear strangers, and learned to live in the shadows. Ignorance only added to their fears, she declared, but now that they had been taught to read and write, they could no longer be fooled or so easily intimidated.

* * *

WE had to rush back to the city to catch our flight back to Manila, so we couldn't stay for the lunch the barangay women had prepared. But, apart from the *suman*, bananas, papaya and *lansones* that they urged upon us, the women of Bgy. Pianing gave us even more memorable and valuable *pasalubong*: the memory of their faces bright with confidence and hope, telling us that as long as people like them, who have the most reason to despair, continue to find reasons to look forward to the future, then we, who have so much, have no excuse for gloom and doom.

I'd also like to mention some new friends I've made in this brief visit to Butuan, specifically the Mancao sisters, especially Primy Ann and Nova Mancao-Ramirez and her niece Jam, who drove and accompanied us all the way to Pianing. The sisters entertained us in their home and drove us around, giving us even more reasons to remember the women of Butuan with much warmth and fondness.

'Hangang pier, na naman'

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

MORE and more we hear people wondering what happened to us that we were second only to Japan some decades ago and all of a sudden we're at the bottom of the progress barrel.

The answers are, of course, complex and varied, depending on which discipline is asked the question. What is not refutable is that we're lagging behind no matter the area. (Well, there's the birth rate, but with the exception of the Pope and the Catholic Church, I don't think anyone tasked to house, feed and educate all those mouths properly is crowing with pride.)

Let's take the cultural field, for instance. Sure cultural workers will tell you that Singapore had a billion dollars to jump-start their bid to be the cultural center of Southeast Asia that started with their conversion of a colonial building into a museum. But remember that the Cultural Center of the Philippines was built three decades ago with the necessary components to keep it afloat. Let's not enumerate the number of means pursued to make sure it failed not least of which was turning over the properties to the Public Estates Authority.

In a special issue of Newsweek (Oct-Nov 2003), Kishore Mahbuhbani avers that the smaller cities of Southeast Asia have at present the market opportunity to become "a potential intellectual center for the region." Needless to say Manila is not mentioned. It's Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, and not because they have more money but because "they long ago realized their ethnic diversity was a strength, not a weakness."

It doesn't take a lot of brains to figure out that with our insistence on bewailing our "damaged culture" instead of embracing that diversity we're nurturing our own poor self-esteem. Oddly enough it's mostly from men that I've heard the comment that they don't know who they are. The women I know don't seem to have that problem. (It's simple and goes this way: "I am who I am. If you don't like it, it's your problem, not mine.")

The other problem we face is that Malaysia and Singapore have the "infrastructure of universities and think tanks." Now it isn't that we don't have the schools. The problem, as we know, is the quality of education they offer.

The most bitter pill to swallow is knowing that the Thais and Indonesians used to come here to be educated, brought back to their country the theories and concepts they imbibed and went on to put them into practice. Take the International Rice Research Institute which some of our supernationalists would like to close, and think of how many Asians have studied the methods and as a result, irony of ironies, are now exporting rice to us. I won't bother with the super-*bangus* sold in the West Coast, bred from our fries that some politician allegedly sold to the Taiwanese to propagate some years ago.

There are electronic gadgets that don't bear repeating because with our present grasp of English we may not be able to fathom. But think of the airport lines that caused such a hassle due to SARS, with airport officials using thermometers on every departing passenger. Singapore was worried that airport delays would affect their travel and tourism business and requested their Defense, Science and Technology Agency to come up with a solution. It took exactly one day for the agency to create a thermal-imaging scanner and within a week 32 scanners were installed in the airport.

Just imagine the mess we would encounter here even if we had the capacity which we don't. First, there would be the bidding, then the overprice, then the suits and counter-suits, then the congressional investigations, and after 10 years, the device would be obsolete. Singapore has shipped 155 of the machines to cities across Asia, expecting that the SARS virus won't be going away any time soon. Since just trying to open the new airport is proving to be beyond our capacity, don't even ask if we're bothering with SARS.

And then there's the quality of life, of course. This has everything to do with the preservation of historical and landmark architectural structures, a concept that seems to be beyond the grasp of certain people. Apparently, we've adopted an outdated model of urban development that the West has discarded, which is "the modernist vision of hyper-dense cores and sprawling suburbs." American architect Andres Duany, who has lectured locally but whose message apparently has still to reach our revered officials, holds that cities "stuffed with high-rises and surrounded by jammed highways, shopping centers and housing that sprawl across what was once the countryside" contribute to creating an unlivable city with polluted air and a lifetime of commuting. On the other hand, there are cities like Boston and Portland where there are "pleasant, walkable streets lined with shops, and a well-run public-transit system." What Portland and Boston have done is "preserved the best of their past..."

Now ask yourself these questions: What good is the world's tallest building if a pedestrian feels beaten up by the time he gets there? What good are elegant elevators if more and more time must be spent in a nerve-racking commute to reach them. What good is a higher income if it is spent buying a second car for the family?"

Unfortunately for us, there is a nagging suspicion that the people who can solve our problems are steering clear of government and all those tasked with finding solutions don't have the capacity for it.

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An appeal for statesmanship

THE MEMBERS of the Bishops-Businessmen Conference for Human Development appeal to all concerned in the current controversy surrounding the impeachment proceedings against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to exercise utmost statesmanship and sobriety in considering the actions and decisions they have taken, are taking and propose to take in the future. We appeal to them to consider the supreme good of the country, the dictates of their individual and collective consciences, and their sincere discernment of the perfect will of God in taking such actions and decisions. Their constituents and their God demand no less.

First, we urge all concerned to ensure that the processes employed in this matter are just, fair and transparent. We ask the members of the House to consider if the seeming haste with which the second impeachment complaint was processed, without the benefit of committee considerations on the sufficiency of its form and substance, without the opportunity given to the accused to respond, and so soon after the first impeachment complaint against him and his colleagues had been dismissed, meet the test of justice, fairness and transparency. We have serious doubts that it does.

Second, we urge the members of the House to reflect on their individual and collective motives in supporting or opposing the impeachment. Are their actions motivated purely by the supreme good of the country, in the light of God's will as discerned by their informed consciences? Or are selfish and/or sinister motives impelling them to act? If their actions are motivated by anything but the good of the country, then we urge them to reconsider and amend their position.

We also ask our senators to ensure that, if the impeachment complaint does go to trial, they exercise due care and statesmanship imbued with patriotism as they sit in judgment.

We cannot help but be perplexed that in the face of the Commission on Audit's report certifying that the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) had been properly managed and of the Court's advice that all major expenditures of the JDF have been authorized by the Court en banc, the House would still see fit not just to investigate the Chief Justice, but worse, to impeach him for wrongdoing that neither the COA nor any intended beneficiary of the JDF, namely the judiciary's personnel, has formally alleged.

We fail to see what good the country will derive from this controversy that a few members of the House have kindled. On the contrary, we are deeply concerned that this impeachment process will severely compromise the progress of our economy, the stability of our democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the foundations of our public morality.

Finally, since evidence to the contrary is wanting, we affirm our belief in the integrity, probity and trustworthiness of the Chief Justice and give him our full support and confidence.

May God bless and forgive us all.

—BISHOPS-BUSINESSMEN'S CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (BBC), bbchd@compass.com.ph

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I know who I'll vote for

MY dilemma has been solved. And I'm sure many think the way that I do in the light of very fast moving developments.

I'm referring to the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. Now suddenly, I have my candidate for president! Thanks to you, dear congressmen who impeached him. I used to think with the election fast approaching, and no sensible presidential candidate in sight, our country was doomed. Now, I've been proven wrong. An honest, God-fearing and no nonsense patriot has emerged as the most acceptable candidate who could lead our country from the depths. Why, it only took some hoodlums in *barong* to enlighten me! Thanks again, "honorable" congressmen. Now our countrymen have found reason to remember all of you in the coming election. Davide for president!

—RAUL T. PAMINTUAN, California Street, Camella Homes, Bacoor, Cavite rtpam@yahoo.com

How much work does a senator get done?

WHOEVER came out with the paid advertisement "Abolish the Senate!!!!" deserves the support of all decent citizens of this country. I suggest that more public exposure of:

1. Who and for what each senator spends the P200 million in pork barrel funds he gets each year.
2. How much time each senator really spends in his Senate chambers doing/attending to his duties as a senator.
3. Attendance in sessions.
4. Grade the accomplishments of each whether as principal author of meaningful/intelligent legislation or merely as "riders" and wallflowers on the Senate floor.
5. Who go on foreign travels (to where), members of his/her party, purpose of such travels, length of travel, how much was spent for each travel, what written accomplishment was submitted for such travel and what legislative or economic gain resulted from them.
6. How much "cash advances" each senator gets from the Senate or the national government's budget department, what liquidation statements were submitted for such "cash advances."

—LITO P. SANTIAGO, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Judicial vigilance

THE MANDALUYONG Regional Trial Court should be commended for the temporary restraining order it issued against Tanduay Distillers Inc. for its launching of Ginebra Kapitan that is allegedly an imitation and very similar to Ginebra San Miguel. The court action should send a strong signal that the government is serious in pursuing the protection of intellectual property rights, a stumbling block to the promotion of foreign investment in the country.

For some years in the past, the Philippines was among the top countries in a black list of notorious violators of intellectual property rights. The government's continuing campaign against music and film pirates, in tandem with such judicial vigilance exhibited by the Mandaluyong RTC are healthy signs that the country eventually would rid itself of this copycat stigma.

—J. MELQUIADES GUZMAN, Villa Nicasia, Imus, Cavite

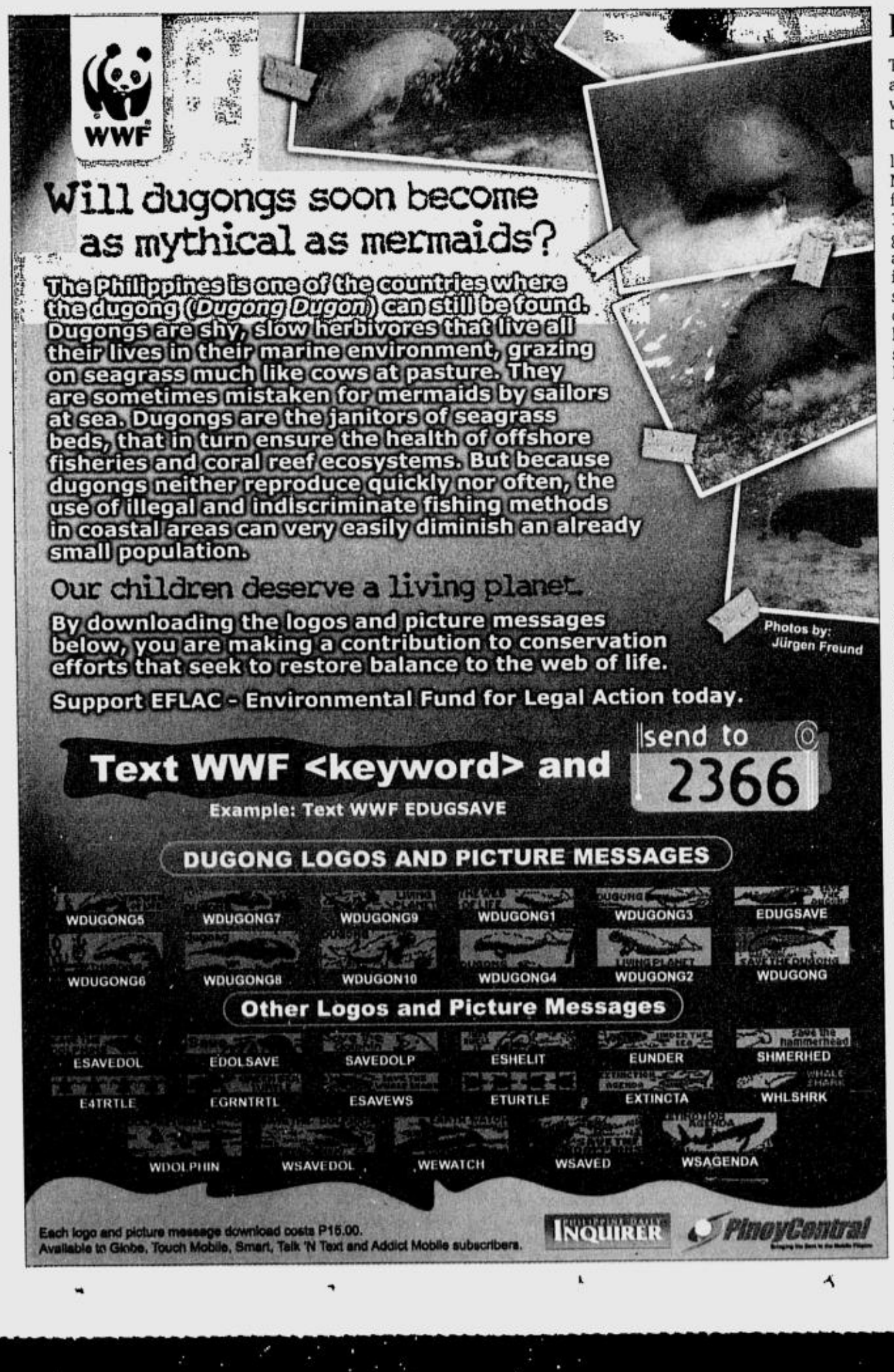
The biggest loser in impeachment case

THE BIGGEST loser in the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide is the House of Representatives itself. They circumvented process and fast-tracked efforts to bring the Supreme Court to heel and join it in the gutter. There were no hearings conducted, not even an investigation. The haste belies the subsequent rationalizations that have come after the fact. Like panicking rats, they are trying to imbue a naked political ploy with high-minded rhetoric. It does not fly! Rep. Wimpy Fuentebella (the name is a giveaway) claims that this is being done to protect the human rights of Supreme Court employees, yet we have not heard anything specific on the offense. Despite the principle of fiscal autonomy, they have chosen to use this as the basis for their impeachment complaint. If those who signed the petition (more correctly) followed process, they would have been hard put to refute the findings of COA, which uncovered no irregularity in the financial records of the Supreme Court. Rather than justifying their actions, these have merely served to refocus attention on their moral bankruptcy, particularly if compared to their spineless handling of the Tancangco impeachment case.

This latest sleaze act of our congressmen further erodes the democratic process. The Supreme Court is precisely shielded from the inanities of our political circus by the Constitution. The wisdom of those who crafted it foresaw the pitfalls the Court can wander into that they put in enough guarantees to ensure that the Court functions free from the winds of politics. This impeachment trivializes the democratic process. It seeks to put pressure on our judiciary to bend to the interests of those who possess power in this country. Such actions rob us of the protection of an impartial arbiter in the questions affecting the common good. It is a chilling reminder of the dark days of martial rule when justice depended on the whims of the dictator.

In choosing to impeach the Chief Justice posthaste, the House has sunk to its lowest level yet. Their action pales when compared to the record of the Davide court. The recent rulings on the coco levy and the Marcos plunder, not to mention its action to preserve public order and our democratic ways in the aftermath of the failed Estrada presidency, serve to highlight the dismal record of the House. They have demeaned the noble purpose of the House and converted it into a market of self-interests. With such lawmakers populating the halls of Congress we are very afraid for the future of this country.

—TEDDY G. LOPEZ, 90 Scout Reyes cor. Scout de Guia St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City



Level playing field for bar examinees

THE RECENT "leakage" scandal in the bar examinations shows once again the unfair advantage enjoyed by Manila law schools over their provincial counterparts.

The bar examinations are not played on a level playing field by law schools. Claims by Manila law schools of their so-called solid performance—including landing at the Top 10—would now be taken with the proverbial grain of salt by those who play the game fair and square. Talks of "tips" and "leakages" flowing in Manila facilitated by fraternities and schools themselves almost always fill the air during the bar month of September. These have tainted the bar results and the law profession itself. That they are not exposed and made known to the public is understandable.

How can there be a level playing field? I propose the following:

1. Rotation of venue. Like other government board examinations, why not rotate the bar examinations venue to other urban centers in the provinces like Davao City in Mindanao the next year, Cebu City in the Visayas the year after and then back to Manila again?

This will "equalize" the financial disadvantage suffered by provincial examinees reviewing for and taking the bar tests in Manila. And to many, the feeling and experience of being disoriented and distracted in such a strange place also take their toll.

2. Provincial examiners. Why do the examiners always come from Manila? Don't we have competent and capable examiners from the provinces? There are eight bar subjects. I suggest that two examiners should come from Mindanao and two (2) also from the Visayas. The other four examiners can come from Manila.

Even without the so-called "tips" and "leakages," familiarization with the form and style of the professors' previous classroom tests and their favorite principles/provisions would be considered already an edge to the examinees.

This is a challenge to the bar committee and the Manila law schools to play fair and square and to help conceive and create a level playing field.

—JONAH S. VILLAGONZALO, Dean, SWU College of Law, Cebu City

Why RP gets less foreign investments

IT'S no wonder the Philippines is doing so poorly in attracting foreign investments—down 33 percent so far this year, after a drop of 47 percent last year. A miserly US$1 billion was recorded in 2002. Malaysia attracted US$3.2 billion. Even Vietnam got US$1.2 billion.

Why? There are many reasons, but just one example, UPS and FedEx have invested heavily to establish regional headquarters for their operations in two places that desperately need active investors—Clark and Subic. To have the Philippines as the center for cargo operations is a great benefit for the Philippines.

So what does the Philippines (yes, the Philippines, overseas investors won't distinguish who. The country gets the blame) do? It questions their constitutionality and threatens to kick them out.

How taking packages from one country, sorting them, then sending them on to another country—neither of which is the Philippines—can be considered a public utility operating in the Philippines is beyond my comprehension.

I suggest the President crack some heads and make it absolutely clear that the government will fight any attempt to question the role of these companies. And that the Supreme Court equally throw out any such frivolous, but damaging (to the Philippine image) case, if it should be brought before them.

—PETER WALLACE, president, The Wallace Business Forum, 14/F Sagittarius Bldg., HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

On post-surgery disability claims

THIS pertains to the issues raised by Mr. Wilfredo T. Martin (SS No. 03-8146241-9) in a letter to the editor titled "Inhuman SSS policy." (PDI, 9/1/03)

Mr. Martin went to the SSS Alabang branch on Aug. 14, 2003 to file a disability claim after he underwent a heart bypass operation. He was told post-surgery disability claims can only be processed four months after the day of operation.

Mr. Martin was advised to refile his disability claim after the four-month period.

Disability is determined after the four-month rehabilitation period during which the progress of the patient is under observation. During this time doctors determine if the patient is experiencing difficulty or impairment, or has recovered.

The waiting period is intended to protect the member. It helps ensure that the appropriate disability benefit is paid to the member.

We advise Mr. Martin to file his disability claim four months after the date of his operation.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS, assistant vice president for media affairs, Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Toxic waste victims remembered

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—Relatives and supporters of toxic waste victims in Clark and Subic appealed for renewed support for the cleanup of former American bases and damage compensation when they commemorated the death of their family members on Thursday.

They lighted more than 100 candles and offered flowers for the victims of toxic waste exposure during a gathering at the bank of the Kalaklan River near the former Subic Naval Base here.

Parents and children of the victims, who died from various types of cancer, illnesses and abnormality due to exposure to US military toxic and hazardous wastes, rode on four bancas and held a fluvial parade at the Kalaklan River.

"This commemoration has been going on yearly for the last six years and will go on until justice for the victims has been won," said Jade Russel Timbas, People's Task Force for Bases Clean-up coordinator in Subic.

She said this year's activity was memorable because it allowed the victims to collectively grieve for the "utter disregard" of the toxic waste issue by President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush during Bush's visit.

Yolanda Lachica, 68, said she still mourns the death of her husband Numeriano, 80, who died of asbestosis on Aug. 5.

Lachica broke into tears as she related her husband's suffering.

Her husband, who worked at the Subic Repair Facility (SRF) from 1946 to 1977, allegedly acquired the disease while handling asbestos fibers for US warships.

"It was really difficult for me to see my husband suffer. I have been crying all these days because he died without even receiving help from the government," Lachica said.

According to Zarina Sarsalijo, mother of 10-year-old Diezalyn, who died of tuberculosis meningitis on July 31, she was praying hard for the parents and relatives of toxic waste victims to get compensation from the government.

Tuberculosis meningitis is an infection of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord caused by the bacteria that causes tuberculosis.

Sarsalijo, who lives in Bataan, said her daughter was also diagnosed to have cerebral palsy, which she linked to toxic contaminants at the former Subic naval base. She was pregnant when she worked as a house helper inside the base.

Estrelita Manzano, 47, an Aeta from the Iram resettlement in New Cabalan here, said her husband Ceriaco died of brain cancer on Dec. 31, 2002.

Her husband, she said, was exposed to hazardous wastes as a utility man at the base's naval magazine.

Ceriaco handled garbage at the naval magazine where bullets and firearms were stored and tested.

Braulio Pabillare, chair of the Yamang Kalikasang Aming Pangangalagaan (Yakap)-Subic and former supervisor of the SRF, said the number of toxic waste fatalities recorded by their group in Subic and Clark this year has reached 780.

3 cops slain in NPA attack in Bulacan town

HAGONOY, Bulacan—Three members of the Philippine National Police's maritime command in this town were killed while another was wounded after communist rebels raided their detachment in Barangay Poblacion on Thursday night.

Chief Insp. Roderick Minong, Hagonoy police chief, identified the fatalities as P01 Teodirico Collado, PO3 Leonardo Paulino and SPO1 Roberto Dinlasan.

Wounded in the attack staged at 9:20 p.m. was PO3 Dominador Perlas, who was taken to the National Orthopedic Hospital in Quezon City.

Minong said seven suspected New People's Army rebels wearing camouflage police uniforms attacked the detachment, located near a river and the town's public market.

Perlas told investigators that four rebels alighted from a blue Mitsubishi Adventure van and opened fire at the detachment using M-16 Armalite rifles.

Perlas, who was hit in the shoulder, said he returned fire and hit one of the suspects in the knee. He said the attack took not more than 10 minutes.

Police said the suspects left the van and fled to Pampanga aboard a motorboat.

Chief Insp. Miguel Atienza, chief of the local PNP maritime command, said the rebels also took seven M-16 Armalite rifles from the police station. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cops prepare for reb attacks

CEBU CITY—Members of the Regional Mobile Group (RMG) have been deployed to police stations in remote areas in Central Visayas to avert any possible attack by the New People's Army during All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day.

Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, police director for Central Visayas, said police aren't taking any chances.

Delfin said police were more concerned about security in Cebu's southern towns and some areas in the north due to the absence of military detachments in these areas. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

NPAs refute military figures on rebel casualty

ILAGAN, Isabela—The New People's Army disputed military reports claiming that an undetermined number of rebels were killed in a series of clashes in San Mariano town on Saturday.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Ka Victor Servidores, spokesperson of the NPA's Fortunato Camus Command-Cagayan Valley, said Army officials were creating a "yarn of lies" to make up for their defeat in recent clashes with rebels in the province.

On Saturday, four soldiers were killed after NPA rebels ambushed them while crossing a river in San Mariano town.

Servidores said the Army's 5th Infantry Division is "concocting fantastic statements to hide its stinging setbacks."

"These (Army casualties) show that communist guerrillas are capable of defeating the Army despite its superiority in number of soldiers," he said.

Killed in Saturday's ambush were Sgt. Marcelino Alcantara, Pvt. Alfonso Carino, one Pfc. Cabildo and Cpl. Leonardo Sedon. They belonged to the 5th ID based in Gamu town.

Five other soldiers were wounded in the ambush.

A statement from the Army's Northern Luzon Command based in Tarlac City said the NPA suffered "several casualties" during the San Mariano clashes. The statement, however, did not say how many rebels were killed or wounded.

The Nolcom statement said the military based the rebel casualties on accounts of residents and bloodstains in the clash sites.

In Tarlac, the spokesperson of the NPA's Nelson Mesina Command claimed responsibility for the attack on a police precinct in San Jose town on Sunday.

"The attack was meant to send a clear message that the military intervention of the United States will not deter us from pursuing our objectives," Serafin Magdiwang said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

On Sunday afternoon, rebels commandeered three dump trucks of the provincial engineer's office (PEO) and used them in a raid on a police precinct.

Reports reaching the Nolcom headquarters in Tarlac City said the rebels attacked the police station, wounding one person. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

TO THE RESCUE PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JUN CATALLA
Thirteen-year-old Yvette Natasha (kneeling) comes to the rescue of her brother to tie up the boy's shoe laces during a pre-Halloween party of children at a community in Bulacan.

Cops cleared of links with illegal logging

CAMP SATURNINO DUMLAO, Nueva Vizcaya—Policemen, who were earlier reported engaged in the selling of illegally cut lumber, have been cleared of any wrongdoing, the provincial police director said.

Senior Supt. Jesus Manubay, Nueva Vizcaya police director, said no sanctions were imposed against members of the 2nd Provincial Mobile Group after an investigation failed to prove that the policemen were engaged in illegal logging.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that some 2nd PMG policemen, based in the upland village of Pelaway in Alfonso Castañeda town, tolerated the trade and transport of illegally cut narra from the lower Casecnan watershed area.

Manubay dismissed the allegations as unfounded.

"(The policemen) admitted that they owned the pieces of narra lumber found with PNP marks, but these were for their personal use ... if they bought it with their own money, what's wrong with that," he said.

"If they prefer buying lumber from that place to save a few pesos, then that's their right. In fact, I myself bought (lumber for) my bed from Pelaway because it's really cheap there," Manubay said.

The cutting of trees and transporting of forest products from the lower Casecnan watershed remain prohibited.

Illegal logging continues due to the demand for narra which has lured Bugkalot natives into making it their primary source of livelihood. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mindanao has huge power reserves—Napocor

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The National Power Corp. said Mindanao has a huge reserve of power that would last beyond 2005.

The state-owned firm sought to assure businessmen who said they were worried that investments in Mindanao would slow down because of fears of a power shortage on the island.

Napocor had made the forecast last year.

But Pio Benavidez, Napocor's senior vice president for generation, told the INQUIRER that Mindanao has enough power supply beyond 2005 but it was not a guarantee the island would be spared from power interruptions because of other problems.

Benavidez said groups out to sabotage the country's power system were behind the attacks on Napocor transmission lines.

He said the only way to ensure continued supply of power is the entry of more energy generators.

"Well if we don't move for more energy generators, the tendency to be in the dark again is feasible," he said.

But he expressed pessimism the government could secure the transmission towers even if every soldier in Mindanao was sent to guard them.

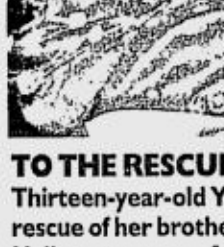
Benavidez said the only solution was to tap power facilities such as the controversial $300-million coal-fired plant in Misamis Oriental.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was to inaugurate the power plant amid protests.

Groups opposing the facility said it would only worsen the pollution of the Macajalar Bay.

Marriz Manuel Agbon, 12th Mindanao Business Conference secretary general, was reluctant to comment on the business sector's support for the coal-fired plant. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE
IT is exactly 537 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

NBI warns of text messaging racket

BACOLOD CITY—Don't be fooled by text messages informing you that you have won in a raffle because chances are, this is a sham.

Celso Estorga, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) chief in Bacolod, urged the public to refrain from entertaining text messages asking for cash or other valuables without inquiring from the proper government agency, cellular phone companies and the business establishments concerned if the raffle promotions were authentic.

He said five Negrense complained to the NBI here that they were duped of more than P200,000 after they believed in the raffle draws they received from text messages.

An investigation conducted by NBI agent Arnel Sigue showed that about five complainants received text messages, informing them that they won millions of pesos after their cellular phone numbers were picked in a raffle.

Estorga said the complainants were then informed that to receive their cash prizes, they should deposit money as alleged payment of government taxes for their winnings.

They were also asked to send through their cellular phones unused call card pin numbers for loading, he added.

The text messages indicated the bank account numbers where the "raffle winners" would deposit the money, because the "raffle personnel" did not personally accept cash, Sigue said. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

DON'T MISS IT!

The MAP

Management Association of the Philippines

invites CEOs, COOs, management executives and decision makers to the

2nd MAP INTERNATIONAL CEO CONFERENCE

on

4 November 2003, 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La

Conference Theme:

"NEW IDEAS TO OUST OLD MINDSETS" (Solutions in Tough Times)

In tough times, executives are finding themselves digging their heels deep, in search of NEW IDEAS. The only real wealth is found in NEW IDEAS and somebody willing to act on it. Every good leader is also a learner. The speakers will share NEW IDEAS that will bring new revelation and opportunity as well as equip us to make a difference in the business world!

Loida Nicolas-Lewis, Chair and CEO of TLC Beatrice International Holdings, Inc., will be the luncheon keynote speaker of the Conference. Ms. Lewis is the National Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Association (NaFFA). She was the first Asian to pass the Bar Exam in the US (prior to 1974) without studying in US. She later worked at the INS and wrote best selling books on US Immigration.

SPEAKERS:
Mr. DOMINIC BARTON, *Chairman for Asia Pacific Practice, McKinsey & Co.*
Mr. HOWARD D. BELTON, *Chair /CEO, Unilever Philippines, Inc.*
Mr. AHMED REDA CHAMI, *Chair, Microsoft Asia Pacific*
Mr. JONATHAN A. GURANGO, *CEO, Webworks OS, Inc.*
Mr. ROLANDO B. HORTALEZA, *Chair / CEO, Splash Corporation*
Ms. CHIT JUAN, *President/CEO, Figaro Coffee Company*
Ms. LOIDA NICOLAS-LEWIS, *Chair/ CEO, TLC Beatrice Int'l Holdings*
Mr. NAPOLEON L. NAZARENO, *President, Smart Communications, Inc.*
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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Small Samar town judged one of world's most livable areas

By Vicente S. Labro
Calbiga, Samar

A SMALL, ancient town of Samar stole the limelight in this year's Nations in Bloom, a prestigious international competition, when it won the contest and also got the coveted Bursary Award of 10,000 British pounds or about P850,000.

Nations in Bloom is the world's only international competition for communities that focus on good environmental management and the enhancement of quality of life. Endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme, it is also the largest international competition for livable communities.

Calbiga, a fourth class municipality, won the bronze in the Category A competition of communities having a population of 20,000 or less. The other finalists under this category were Largs (Scotland), Maze (Japan), Killarney (Ireland), Soldiers Point (Australia), Lochristie (Belgium) and Chelsea (Canada).

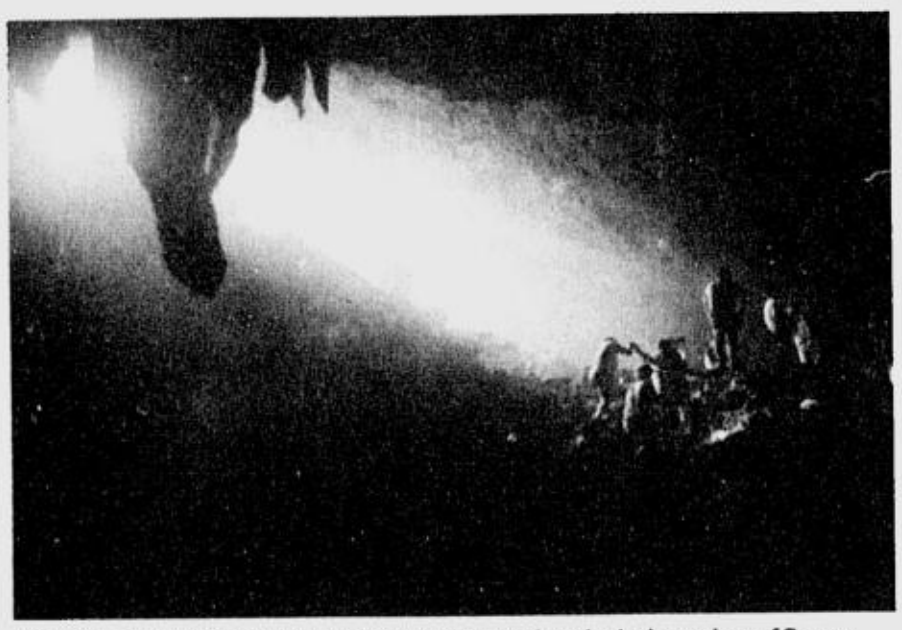
A total of 25 communities around the world made it to the finals from the original 236 entries coming from 15 countries. The competition was held at Apeldoorn, the Netherlands on Oct. 3 to 6. The awarding night was on Oct. 6.

Calbiga, however, bested all the other contestants and won the Bursary Award. The award aims to assist a project supporting the objectives of Nations in Bloom, which include the improvement of the quality of life through the creation of livable communities, the exchange of good practices relating to the management of the environment and the encouragement of new initiatives.

The Bursary Award, which was open to all those who took part in the Nations in Bloom competition, will be given to the winner only after the completion of its proposed project that has to be finished within 12 months of the award.

The winning project

Calbiga's proposed project is a nature park that would rise in a three-hectare area inside the town's 25-hectare Small Enterprise Park site in Barangay Bacyaran, which is between the national highway and the Calbiga River. The nature park will include a mini-zoo, a mini-forest, children's playground, an orchidarium and butterfly garden and miniatures of caves, waterfalls, rapids, the Calbiga River and the Maqueda Bay.



THE CALBIGA cave is one of the most preserved geological wonders of Samar. PDI PHOTO

According to Calbiga Mayor Melchor F. Nacario, the nature park will not only provide enjoyable recreational experiences to the locals and visitors but will also enhance the municipal landscape to create an environment that generates civic pride. The estimated project cost was P1.69 million, the amount to be taken from the proceeds of the Bursary Awards with a counterpart fund from the municipality.

Joop and Rianne van Hezik of Ecotopia, a Dutch couple who has visited Calbiga many times before, nominated Calbiga to the Nations in Bloom. The couple also facilitated the airfare and accommodation of the Calbiga delegation headed by Mayor Nacario.

The other Calbiga delegates were Osmund Orlanes of Currents Foundation and Luzviminda Nacario, the mayor's wife, who works with the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Nacario's 35-minute Powerpoint presentation for the Nation in Bloom competition, dubbed as "Our Struggle for a Livable Community," was focused on the initiatives of Calbiga in the areas of environmental enhancement, protection and preservation and the anti-mining advocacy where he himself has been in the forefront.

Calbiga, which is located along the national highway, is 52 kilometers from the provincial capital town of Catbalogan, Samar in the north and around 55 km from Tacloban City, the regional capital in the island of Leyte, in the south.

Endowed with natural wonders, Calbiga boasts of the Calbiga River, Calbiga Caves, the Lulugayan Falls, and the Literon Rapids, among others. All of these places are potential eco-tourism destinations.

Calbiga River, which runs 14 km from a lake in the forest down to the marine resource-rich Maqueda Bay, irrigates the farms, gives water to the homes and nourishes the lives of the Calbiganons.

The Calbiga Caves, a 2,968-hectare cave system which is dubbed as the biggest karst formation in the Philippines and one of the largest in East Asia, is located about six km away from the town proper. There are 12 caves found within the cave system, which is now a protected area.

Italian speleologists who explored the caves in 1987 described the place as a truly exceptional hydro-geological area. The cave system swallows at least 20 important watercourses. A spring from the hydrological basin gives origin to Calbiga River, one of the big watercourses in Samar Island.

The hydrological basin, called Calidongan by the locals, is a round-shaped lake that overflows and provides water to the Calbiga River. This also gives birth to the spectacular Lulugayan Falls and the Literon Rapids, where the more adventurous ones can enjoy a 10-km, 22-layered white-water rafting.

Balance

During the presentation, Nacario also talked about how to balance man's economic needs with nature's ecological vulnerability, the involvement of the community in development efforts and their plans for the future, among others.

The mayor said that among the activities being undertaken by the people of Calbiga are reforestation of watershed areas, mangrove rehabilitation, river desiltation and erosion control, and sustained advocacy against illegal fishing and logging, among others.

But midway in the presentation, Orlanes took over to present the rich heritage of their hometown. He talked about the folk songs, dances, and poetry of Calbiga such as the "siday" (poem) and the "harana" (courtship song) and the plan of the municipal government to put up a museum where historical records would be kept for posterity.

Orlanes also mentioned the fiesta celebrations in Calbiga and its 41 villages, which in the past were highlighted by the "Sinulog," a street pageant depicting the raids conducted by pirates and slave hunters. Today, it is the Pahoy-pahoy (Scarecrow) Festival that adds color to the fiesta celebrations.

But what enthralled the audience during the presentation was when Orlanes and Mrs. Nacario presented to them live the Waray courtship dance—the "curacha." Although clapping was not allowed during the presentation, Mayor Nacario said the judges themselves led the audience in applauding the dance performance.

In closing his presentation, Nacario said: "People who live in so-called modern communities think us so impoverished and deprived. Our houses are not lined with aluminum sidings. Our snacks are not packaged in aluminum foils. Our drinks are not contained in aluminum cans. But we are not poor, nor deprived. We are sufficiently provided for by Mother Nature. We derive sustenance from our forests, our farms, our rivers and our seas. That's why we care for them, and take care not to abuse them. This is our livable community."

Standing ovation

When they finally received the award, the delegates from Calbiga were accorded a standing ovation by all the participants and the audience. Nacario said he dedicates the award to the people of Calbiga and the province of Samar and the country.

Alan Smith, the executive director of Nations in Bloom, cited Calbiga for having "faced an amazing challenge that typifies some of the critical factors facing communities that are rich in natural resources but have weaker economies. The community is attempting to change the traditional agricultural practices and has also banned mining in its land against great commercial pressures."

Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands Romeo Arguelles also lauded Calbiga for winning the prestigious award. The ambassador attended the competition's opening day and the awards night.

Nacario thanked the Filipinos in the Netherlands who showed their unwavering support to the Calbiga delegation. The Filipino Catholic Community of Rotterdam even sponsored a cultural program to honor and support the Calbiga delegates.

The prestigious international award has placed this small town in Samar on the map of livable communities in the world. Calbiga, it seems, will continue to bloom as its people "work with the rhythms of nature" in their pursuit of a better life.

The Calbiga delegation poses with Apeldoorn Mayor Ed de Graaf during the Awards Night on Oct. 6. In photo are (Left to Right) Ed Dabuet of the Philippine Embassy in the Netherlands, Osmund C. Orlanes, Luzviminda Nacario, Mayor de Graaf, Calbiga Mayor Mechor F. Nacario and Consul Noel Servigon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cebuanos hit back at Davide's tormentors

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

OUTRAGE.

This one word encapsulates the Cebuanos' reactions to the perfidious plot to bring down one of the few men in the government with an immaculate record, Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

The "evil plotters" might have underestimated Davide, one of Cebu's favorite and beloved sons, and the throngs who believe in him. They are facing not only a resolute foe but also a popular backlash that threatens to sweep them away faster than they can spell "impeachment."

No one would feel the full impact of the Cebuanos' wrath more than the two local solons who closed ranks with the "Dirty Eighty," Representatives Nerissa Soon-Ruiz and Joseph "Ace" Durano. Unlike their peers, they don't have the excuse of not knowing the Chief Justice.

To them, Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal had this to say: "Our nation has suffered enough. We appeal to your sense of patriotism and basic decency to uphold the interest of the country first."

"As fellow Cebuanos, we know Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to be a man of principle and fidelity," the cardinal said in a pastoral letter. "His track record as a public servant is unassailable in honesty, integrity and competence—truly a good Christian and a good statesman."

As good and obedient soldiers of Eduardo Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), Soon-Ruiz and Durano aren't expected to listen neither to Vidal nor their conscience. The Boss's word is as good as gospel truth.

The two politicians would rather sign their death warrants, especially Soon-Ruiz who is running in Mandaue City where voters are more attuned to political developments. Durano may still weather the storm in feudalistic Danao City, where his family has reigned supreme for decades, but who knows?

According to them, they decided to impeach Davide to give him a chance to defend himself. In addition, Durano would want to teach the Chief Justice a lesson for snubbing their committee investigation of the alleged misuse of the Judicial Development Fund (JDF).

The first reason is politicians' babble; the second reeks of arrogance, if not ignorance of what high school political science students already know—there's such a thing as "separation of powers." (Lawmakers just can't hale the Chief Justice into congressional hearings in aid of reelection. Now that the High Court has returned the favor by issuing its status quo order and summoning the leaders of Congress, how do they feel?)

What was it that really convinced Soon-Ruiz, Durano and their ilk to risk all for a dubious cause? Texters believe they know the answer.

To change the Boss's mind, anti-impeachment groups have to hit him where it hurts most.

This is the reason why Promdi chieftain Lito Osmeña is actively leading a boycott of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) products. The boycott is a surefire way of pressuring Cojuangco and his cabal of pork-laced lawmakers into withdrawing the impeachment complaint.

Cojuangco may ignore the howls of protest but certainly not the sound of his business empire crashing. Unless he has already been driven to absolute desperation by his setback in the coco levy case.

If the boycott succeeds, Osmeña predicts that "those behind the impeachment complaint will kneel down before the people and ask for forgiveness for their evil deeds."

The Coalition for Judicial Independence (CJI), the group formed in the wake of Davide's impeachment, has already included SMC's boycott among its battle plans.

"We have nothing against the people working in San Miguel because these are good people," said CJI convenor Fr. Carmelo Diola.

"But upon weighing all data and information, we concluded that the person behind the impeachment process who came life a thief in the night is Danding Cojuangco who happens to control San Miguel," Diola said.

CJI is no pushover. It is powered by former leaders of Barug Sugbo, the Cebu-based movement that lobbied for the resignation of deposed president Joseph Estrada at the height of "Juetengate." It enjoys the backing of the local Catholic church, the academe, business groups and other members of civil society.

Aside from the SMC boycott, it has lined up prayer rallies and vigils, noise barrages, and information campaigns on the follies and perils of impeachment.

The lost American cemetery

By Alex V. Pal
Dumaguete City

And even my grave is remembered no more
Unmark'd by never a cross nor a stone.
Let the plow sweep through it, the spade turn it o'er
That my ashes may carpet earthly floor
Before into nothingness at last they are blown.
-Jose Rizal, "Mi Ultimo Adios"

ASK any Dumagueteño where the American cemetery is and most likely, you will only get a puzzled look.

"Where's that?" Even Ernie Jumalon, acting sanitary inspector of Dumaguete City, didn't know it existed. Jumalon, who started working at the City Health Office in 1976, knew only of the Dumaguete Memorial Park, Bogo Cemetery, the Chinese Cemetery, and the Bagacay Cemetery.

A lady working for the Dumaguete Memorial Park who answered the phone was equally surprised. "American cemetery? We bury anyone, regardless of nationality."

The history books of Prof. Caridad Rodriguez, Negros Oriental's most published historian, make no mention of an American cemetery in Dumaguete City, but she knows it by heart.

"Yes, there is one," she declared confidently.

This cemetery, about 100 square meters in size, is surrounded by the congested Chinese cemetery in Barangay Daro.

But hardly anyone goes there now. In fact, the whole place is filled with Cadena de Amor vines.

In the midst of all the greenery, two tombs stick out.

Vines cover the name on one tomb but one can read the name inscribed on the other tomb: Henry W. Mack.

"Mack, who died in 1964, was the last American to be buried there," Rodriguez recalled, as other Americans who died after Mack were buried at the Dumaguete Memorial Park.

Silverio "Boy" Saceda, who lives nearby, remembered Mack as his shop teacher at the Silliman University High School in 1962.

But Henry Mack's name goes far beyond his having been a shop teacher and head of the University's Buildings and Grounds Department. For journalists in this part of the country, Mack, a minister, was one of the pioneers of mass communication. Mack, along with H. Roy Bell, built radio dySR (Silliman Radio) in 1950.

HARDLY anyone now goes to the American Cemetery in Dumaguete City.

"I pity the state of Mack's tomb, it's almost like we have forgotten him and his contributions to the media industry," said Juancho Gallarde, president of the Dumaguete Press Club.

Gallarde said he hoped that the Press Club would be able to honor Mack and the other pioneers of the media in Negros Oriental someday.

Saceda, meanwhile, wanted to know more about the lives of the other Americans buried near his home. Unearthing their names from the vines, however, might be a bigger job than it would seem because of the fear that snakes might be living in the area.

Undaunted, Saceda hoped that Silliman University would take the lead in cleaning up the cemetery.

"The University should play a key role here in reverence to the people who sacrificed a lot to make the university and Dumaguete into what it is today," Saceda said.

QC councilors approve tax amnesty

By Tina Santos

THE QUEZON City council has approved on third and final reading an ordinance declaring a one-time amnesty on delinquent real property taxpayers.

The ordinance, however, may be in for a rough ride after QC Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte expressed opposition to any move that would free inept taxpayers from paying penalties and surcharges.

He said that would be unfair to people who pay their real property taxes religiously and on time.

The ordinance, introduced by 15 councilors led by 4th district councilor Jesus Manuel Suntay, aims to ease the financial burden of people with outstanding tax liabilities.

It's key goal, however, is to generate additional revenue for the city government.

According to the proponents of the measure, unpaid real property taxes, including penalties, have reached P10.7 billion over the last few years.

"The government should help its people by providing programs that would aid them without sacrificing the city's financial integrity," the councilors stressed.

Under the ordinance, a one-time 100 percent relief on interests and penalties would be granted to all delinquent real property taxpayers.

The tax relief, however, could only be availed of by property owners with overdue accounts if they make one full payment of their tax due.

Excluded from any relief would be owners of real property which have already been sold in a public auction.

In the meantime, however, the ordinance is making the assurance that no property laden with unpaid taxes would be auctioned off while the amnesty was in effect.

If signed by Belmonte, the tax amnesty could only be availed of until Jan. 5, 2004.

Should the property owner still fail to pay the tax due on his property, the local government can resort to imposing the provisions of Section 258 of the Local Government Code.

Under the provision, the city government can issue a warrant of levy for the property. City officials can then decide to sell the property in an auction to settle the unpaid taxes.

Asked if he would veto or block the enactment of the tax amnesty, Belmonte said he would rather wait for the ordinance to reach his office for signing before he makes any decision on the matter.

EASY does it. An adult helps his young companions go down one of the ladders set up at the South Cemetery in Makati City. RUDY ESPERAS

In death, unwanted babies find resting place in the heart of North Cemetery

By Leila B. Salaverria

THERE is a special place in Manila where the remains of abandoned babies and aborted fetuses are given repose.

The area is in a place within the North Cemetery dubbed the "Haven for the Angels."

Dr. Florencio Baltazar, head of the Manila Health Department who also oversees the city's cemeteries, said only the North Cemetery has such a place in the whole country.

The haven, which is in an enclosed area and has its own entrance, has 286 units that can hold three babies each.

Fortunately, in a sense, only one-third of the total units are occupied.

Baltazar said he himself sees to the cleaning and sprucing up of the area.

Chandeliers were recently installed there.

Most of the bodies buried in the Haven for the Angels are those of aborted babies, which were disposed of like garbage on the city streets and alleys after they had been aborted by their mothers.

Usually, fetuses found in the city are brought to churches or to the police, and then referred to Baltazar for burial.

Baltazar said that aside from fetuses, abandoned or orphaned babies who had died were also brought to the haven.

The gates to the Haven for the Angels are usually closed to prevent vandals from desecrating the ground made holy by the dead innocents.

It is only opened when parents request cemetery officials to do so in order for them to visit the grave of their babies.

Baltazar also said there were parents who, after abandoning their baby or fetus, trace where the body was brought and then visit to lay flowers on the child's grave.

The cemetery officials do not prevent this, even if the parents do not know which of the babies, most of them unnamed, is theirs.

Today, the gate to the Haven of the Angels will be opened for the commemoration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, in the hope that some parents who have abandoned their children would pay them a visit.

TWO members of the Central Police District Special Weapons and Tactics team keep watch of people going home to the provinces.

A GUARD shows everybody that no one is exempt from the strict security measures in place at a bus terminal in Cubao. JOAN BONDOC

Heroes walk the grounds of Libingan ng mga Bayani

By Christine A. Paita

NOT ALL heroes at the Libingan ng mga Bayani are found under concrete, white crosses.

Surviving family and relatives of those buried at the Libingan know these heroes as the caretakers who make sure that the hallowed graves are kept clean and tidy.

Their task is to make sure the tombs of the country's great departed are well-kept, basking under the sun while blanketed by trimmed grass free from fallen leaves.

The memorial garden of former President Diosdado Macapagal, father of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has a new shine to it, thanks to 62-year-old Pedro Loneza.

Loneza was busy sweeping the area and watering the plants when the INQUIRER talked to him Thursday.

Loneza said he maintains the garden by spraying insecticide on the plants and removing dead leaves.

He said Ms. Evangelina Macapagal, the late president's wife, used to remind him when she was still alive to clear the area of fallen leaves.

The former first lady's resting place is also inside the memorial garden.

He added that he was initially hired to take care of the memorial garden without pay, but Ms Macapagal gave him some amount for his children's schooling.

"When her mother died, the President (Ms Macapagal), who was then a senator, told me to take care of this garden. The family would come here when there's an occasion such as birthdays or death anniversaries," he said in Filipino.

He said he noticed that President Macapagal-Arroyo was fond of orchids.

The President is set to pay her respects today after a wreath-laying ceremony before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

Loneza, who had retired from work at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in 1999, said he has been taking care of the garden since 1997.

The money he earned from his humble work has been able to support his nine children through college.

Another caretaker is Elma Paisano, who said taking care of graves was her way of helping her husband, who earns less than the mandated daily wage.

Paisano, a mother of six, said she earns P75 to P100 for every lot she trims.

METROBRIEFS

Shooting suspect nabbed

ONE OF six men who allegedly shot and killed Barangay Chairman Rodrigo Borgonio some two weeks ago was arrested last Thursday. Police said suspect Sergio Ongriano, 19, of Cielito Homes, Camarin, Caloocan City, was arrested in his hideout in UP Village, Quezon City. Witnesses positively identified Ongriano as one of six men who shot Borgonio, 48, chair of Barangay Pansol, while he was about to deliver a speech in front of the barangay hall in Balara, Quezon City, according to PO2 Joseph Madrid.

Tina Santos

Dancer stabbed

RONNEL Mendoza, 18, yesterday was stabbed to death during a Halloween party in Caloocan City. Police said the suspects, identified only as Banong, Kiko, Genesis and Intsik, got upset when the victim showed off his prowess in dancing during the party that was held on Nadurata Street at 1:45 a.m. The envious suspects mauled Mendoza, of J.P. Bautista Ave., Caloocan, before they stabbed him, police said. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Air-tight case

THE POLICE yesterday said that they now have an airtight case against Gilbert Mariano, a former Army corporal, who has been accused of killing his live-in partner and a maid in Pasig City on Wednesday. Insp. Jovita Iquin, head of the city's criminal investigation unit, said Mariano, 32, silenced his partner, Shirley Canillo, 30, of Barangay Pinagbuhatan, and her maid, Joan Arnaiz, because they knew too much about his illegal activities. Mariano had admitted to being a member of a robbery gang, Iquin said. Nine people have gone to the police to claim their ID cards and other belongings, which were among the evidence recovered at the crime scene, Iquin added. Police said Mariano had kept the stolen cards as trophies. *Luige del Puerto*

Cop rapped for rape

BIENVENIDO Perez of the Central Police District has been charged with rape, graft, trespassing, grave threats, robbery, arbitrary detention and physical injuries before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. Lawyer Anthony Liongson of the National Bureau of Investigation said a 32-year-old woman accused Perez of raping her inside her house in Biglang Awa Subdivision, Quezon City on March 29. He also threatened her with his .45-caliber pistol, before punching her in the stomach. The woman also claimed that Perez sexually molested her daughter. *Tina Santos*

Deadly resistance

TWO car-riding robbers stabbed to death 35-year-old businessman Mavic Solomon, who had just collected his shop's P50,000 earnings in Quezon City. Solomon, of A. Luna Street, San Juan, was walking with a cousin along Aurora Blvd. when a white Toyota Corolla blocked their path at 8:20 p.m. Solomon resisted when one of the suspects tried to take his bag and was stabbed. *Tina Santos*

High school reunion

The GENERAL alumni homecoming of Classes 1983 to 1999 of the M. B. Asistio High School will be held on Dec. 6 at 5 p.m. at the school's covered court in Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City.

Knives...

From page A18

K9 units and ordinance experts of the Central Police District screened baggage at bus terminals and police confiscated sharp and pointed objects that could be used as weapons at cemeteries.

"Security is tight, but people seem to be okay with it," said Ronaldo Samson, 36, a security guard at a bus terminal in Cubao. "They're willing to be subjected to the checks."

Hushed up

In Manila, Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong reiterated his call to the public to refrain from bringing radios, speakers and other noisy items when visiting their dead.

Speaking at the North Cemetery, the largest in Metro Manila, Bulaong said those singing or laughing too loudly would also be hushed up, public address systems and radio stations are also prohibited.

He said walk-in vendors are not allowed at the grave sites.

Vehicles are also banned from entering Manila's cemeteries.

Better to commute

It would be better for people to commute to the Loyola Memorial Center in Marikina City, according to authorities.

The police said parking spaces in the cemetery have already been filled up as of noon yesterday, and it would even be more difficult to find parking slots today, said city police chief Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas, Jr.

"Just leave your cars behind," Rojas said. "That is wiser, more economical. If you commute, you would also not be fighting over parking space."

Children's ghosts captured on camera

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

DON'T forget to watch the All Saints' Day episode of "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" today at RPN 9 from 6 to 7 p.m. It's a presentation suited for the day to honor the departed.

Stories of persons who were murdered manifesting themselves to those they left behind so they could get justice are what "Isumbong" will present in its episode today.

Example: The ghost of a person who was hacked to death and buried by his killers in a forest in Tanay, Rizal, showing himself to his relatives who looked for and found his body in a shallow grave. Why was the victim's decomposed body found in the vast forest? It was a case of finding a needle lost in a huge haystack.

* * *

But the most interesting feature in the special episode is the accidental capture by a moving camera of three ghosts of what looked like small children.

Our cameraman, Richard Traiso, was taking shots of the South Cemetery for today's episode when three figures suddenly appeared in front of the camera.

Traiso said he saw blurred white images of three small children coming from the bushes on the children's burial ground of the South Cemetery.

* * *

But on the TV screen, the ghosts were sky blue on a dark background. The shots were taken at dusk between 6 and 6:15 p.m.

Rene Mariano, a psychic, has an explanation. He says that little children who die can't accept the reality of their death, and so their spirits or ghosts linger on earth. He says ghosts begin to appear at nightfall.

Why were the children's ghosts captured on film colored blue when the cameraman said they appeared to him as white images? Because, Mariano says, blue is the color of the heavens.

* * *

Ghosts of dead people appearing in photographs or moving pictures are not new.

In the movie "Three Men and a Baby," a boy was seen peeping through a curtain while the main characters were talking. But the boy was not seen when scenes of the movie were edited. The boy, according to the owners of the house where the film was shot, had long been dead.

There is also a book showing spirits of dead people mixing with the living persons posing for photographs. I chanced upon that book at a bookstore in Hong Kong, if memory serves. I wasn't interested in buying it at that time. But I will buy it this time when I chance upon it again.

* * *

Do I believe in ghosts? I do. Ghosts are spirits that live through eternity after they depart from the physical body.

But I'm not afraid of ghosts because they can't hurt us, the living, although their apparition can surely scare the wits out of us.

What we should fear are our fellow living beings because they have the capability to do us harm.

* * *

So, if a ghost of a dead relative or friend appears to you, consider yourself lucky.

The departed has chosen you as his or her medium. He or she most probably has brought a secret to his/her grave that he/she wants to share with those still living.

The departed probably wants your forgiveness for a sin that he committed against you while he was still alive; in this case, tell him you've forgiven him and that he can now rest in peace in the other world.

* * *

If the departed was murdered, he probably is asking for justice. Take the case of a bamboo gatherer in Tanay, Rizal, who was hacked to death. His relatives didn't know of his fate. The victim's ghost appeared to his relatives and this made them look for him in the forest where he was last seen. They stumbled upon his body in a shallow grave.

* * *

And now, back to the world of the living.

Two of my friends, who are brothers, control the seaweed export business in the country.

Unfortunately, they are now engaged in a corporate struggle for control of their firms.

Now, all the leeches and bloodsuckers are trying to get into the act.

* * *

Corrupt politicians and corrupt members of the judiciary are offering their services and meddling in what should otherwise be a fair fight over a very simple matter.

This is why litigants too often prefer to take matters into their own hands.

Politicians and judges are making business out of cases involving money.

Why don't all of you leave the two brothers to solve their problems between themselves, without further muddling the issues?

FOUR DIGIT
6 3 8 1
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
0 1 1

MEGALOTTO 6/45
8 12 28 30 33 34

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2003

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Dead may be buried standing up

No more room in graveyards, says Manila official

By Tarra Quismundo

THE COUNTRY'S biggest cemetery has just run out of space and one Manila official is set to file a bill that will require the dead to be buried standing up.

Manila North Cemetery Chief Administrator Florante Baltazar said that while the idea may sound funny, the practice of vertical burials has a practical side to it.

"If this will be the system, three coffins can occupy the space of one coffin that is interred laterally," Baltazar said yesterday.

Baltazar said that the cemetery has ran out of lots for the departed ones, and cited in jest that the only free space in the 54-hectare cemetery are the streets.

"The first burial here happened in May 1904," Baltazar said. "Imagine how many of the dead are buried here."

As for the total "population" of the cemetery, Baltazar only gave a rough estimate of "millions."

The administrator, who is also head of the Manila Health Department, said that an average of 70 to 80 bodies are buried in the public cemetery a week.

With the lots used up, Baltazar said some families have resorted to burying their departed relatives in lots occupied by those who died before.

Exhumed remains are reburied at the North Cemetery Circle or put beside the coffin of the one buried in its place.

Baltazar, who takes care of Manila residents "from womb to tomb" since he also administers lying-in clinics and health centers, said that the cemetery offers wall niches for those who could not afford separate lots.

He said that 14,000 of the dead are buried in such niches, popularly called "apartments," for which P1,000 is paid every five years.

POLICE put on display things to cut, gore and slice with, confiscated from cemetery visitors in Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

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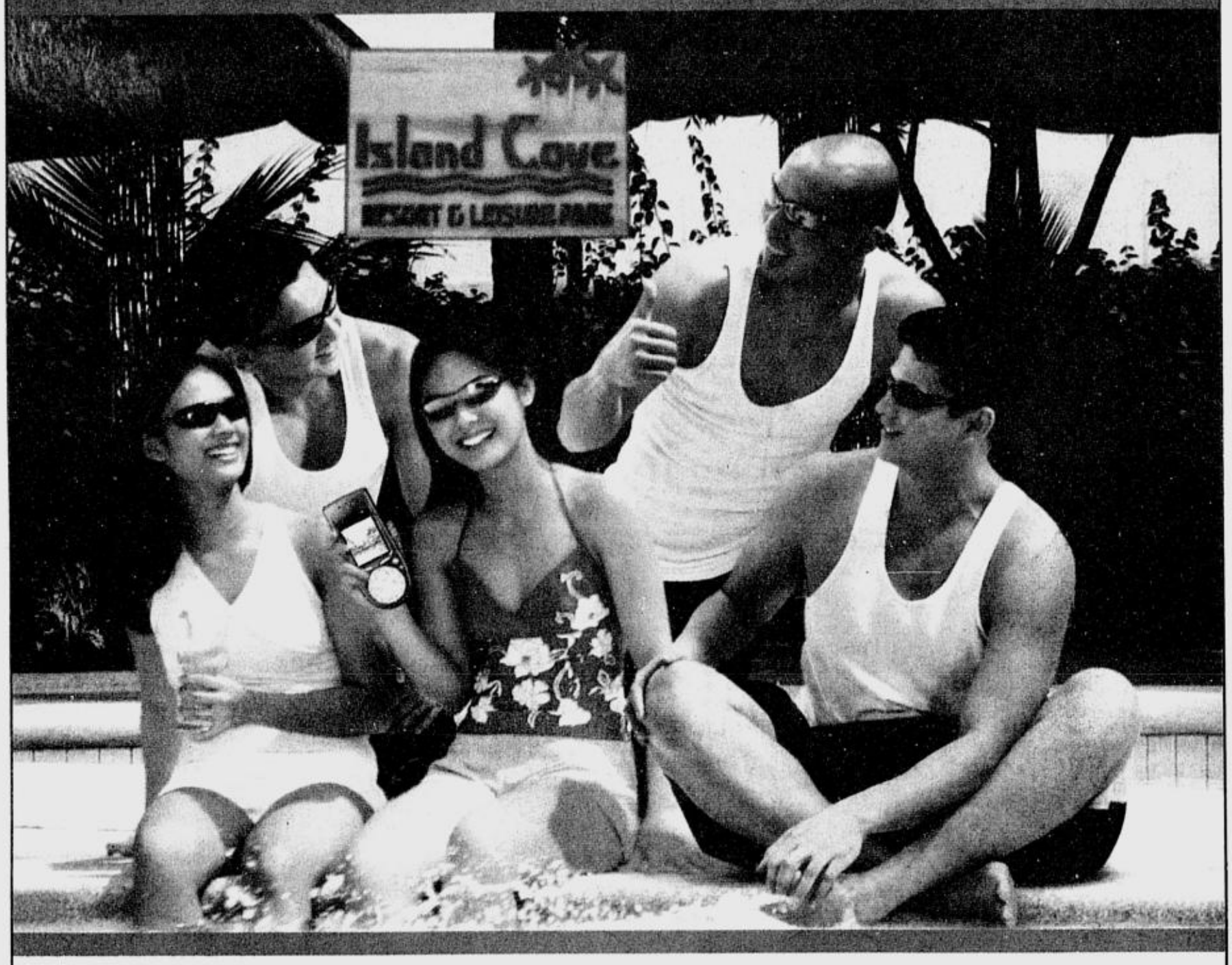

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2755 Series of 2003

Knives, bolos, samurais seized in cemeteries

By Margaux Ortiz, Leila Salaverria, Tarra Quismundo, Luige del Puerto and Tina Santos

JUST use your hands in weeding out the tombs of your loved ones.

The team head of the Manila Traffic and Peace Keeping Action Team (Matapat) yesterday offered this piece of advice after he and his men confiscated blades of various types at the Manila South Cemetery.

According to Matapat chief Royce Formarejo, weapons of all kinds are forbidden in cemeteries during the All Saints' and All Souls' weekend.

"This includes garden shears," Formarejo said.

As of noon yesterday, Matapat operatives seized 151 bladed weapons including fan knives, butcher knives, jungle bolos and even a menacing samurai.

In Manila, police also confiscated about 150 blades by mid-afternoon.

The information desks at the entrance to cemeteries in Quezon City yesterday began to look like weapons and liquor stores, with the banned items put on display.

Formarejo stressed that they will also be confiscating gambling items like playing cards and noisy appliances like radios and speakers.

Formarejo said they had returned the seized items to their owners when they left the cemetery yesterday, but they would not be as lax today and tomorrow.

"We will keep and dispose of confiscated items," Formarejo warned.

Visitors began trooping to cemeteries as early as yesterday morning, setting up tents by the tombs of their loved ones, going about like they were on a picnic.

Policemen in uniform and civilian clothes were all over the cemeteries in Quezon City, subjecting people to routine inspection.

KNIVES/A17

Forgotten déad lie not in tombs but in storehouse

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

NOBODY will visit their remains in the cemeteries today. They don't even have their own tombs to begin with.

At the Sangandaan Cemetery in Caloocan City, the remains of the dead are contained in old sacks, piled one on top of the other, locked in a small storehouse at the back of a chapel.

They are those whose memories have faded in the hearts of their relatives, or those whose relatives are too poor to provide them with tombs.

Ernesto Apolinario, 63, a gravedigger at the cemetery for 39 years, yesterday told the INQUIRER that the storehouse for the abandoned remains has over a thousand sacks of skeletons inside.

The concrete storehouse, measuring about 20 square meters, has no windows nor any sort of opening, except for a steel door which is locked most of the time.

Once in a while some relatives would approach the cemetery's administrator to look for the remains of their relatives, Apolinario said. But most of the remains in the storehouse have lain unclaimed for years.

Most of the remains were initially housed in "apartment tombs"—concrete boxes built one on top of the other. The cost is subsidized by the city government, but the remains are allowed to stay in the tomb for only five years.

After five years, the remains are removed and given back to the families. But often, Apolinario said that families don't claim the remains of their loved ones.

The sacks of remains in the storehouse are each labeled. Some even have their tombstone in the sacks.

But most of the names have faded, and the bones have started to decay.

Those who could not afford to get tombs for their loved ones just light candles in the chapel, remembering their dead without knowing where their remains are.

SPORTS

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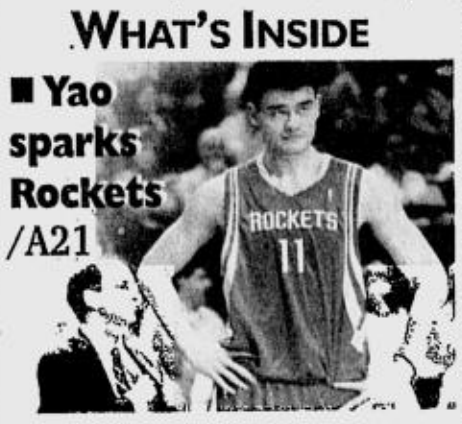

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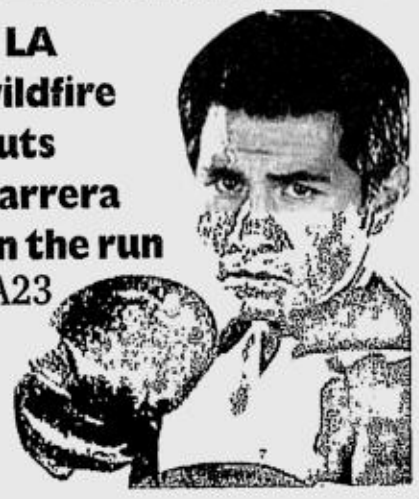

AFRO-ASIAN GAMES

Arcilla, 2 boxers gunning for gold

See story and results on page A20

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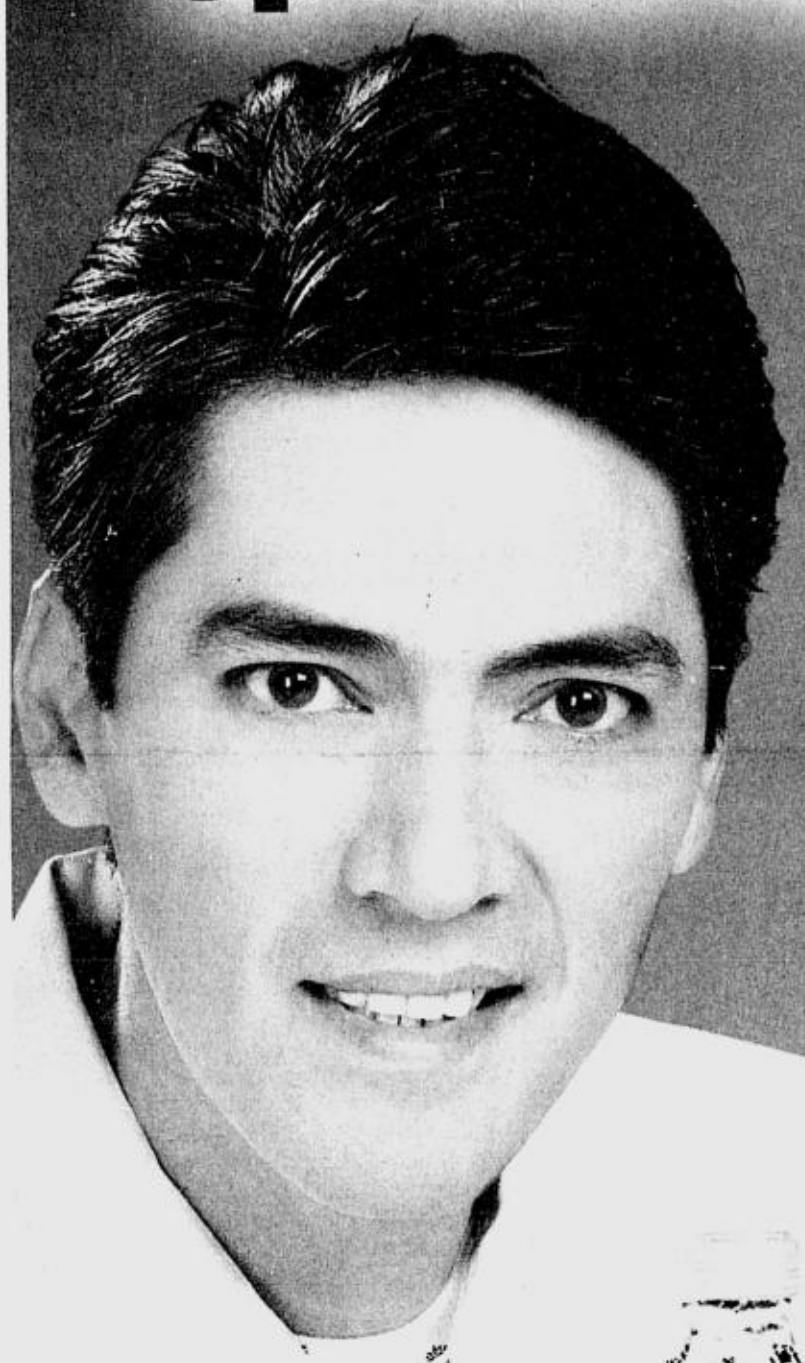

P35

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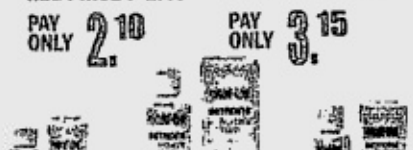

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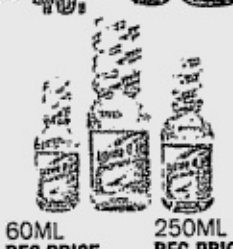

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NBN-4 takeover blamed for PBA financial woes

By June Navarro

THERE was a far superior offer but it was shot down even before it got off the ground.

Phillip Ella Juico, a former member of the IBC-13 board, yesterday said the PBA's financial problems with NBN-4 could have been avoided if only an initial offer by IBC was considered.

Juico said IBC had initially tapped Solar Sports as its partner before NBN-4 stepped in and eventually controlled the PBA's television coverage.

"It was a better offer. Solar Sports promised advanced payment and a corresponding letter of credit from a credible bank to pay the rest of the arrears," Juico told the INQUIRER.

Juico said the deal was supposed to be a co-production between the two television organizations with Solar Sports tasked to market the PBA and IBC to provide the airtime.

"Payment could have been guaranteed because the agreement would protect the coveror and the PBA. It would also enhance the profitability of both parties," said the former Philippine Sports Commission chair.

Juico said the IBC-Solar Sports partnership held a lot of promise until former presidential adviser Dante Ang brought NBN-4 into the picture, along with Summit Sports World Corp., the station's financial arm.

"I personally facilitated IBC's bid to the PBA. I mapped out the coverage platform of IBC until NBN took over through the intercession of Dante Ang. He (Ang) cited the need to improve the income of NBN as the reason for its inclusion," said Juico.

Juico resigned from the IBC board early this week together with the majority of the members as the station stopped airing the PBA games.

NBN-4 has allegedly racked at least P30 million in unpaid airtime dues to IBC-13, forcing the latter to pull its resources out of the PBA.

"I consistently objected to the contract with NBN and the side agreement with Summit. It is contrary to IBC's corporate objective and the station's mission and vision," said Juico.

Juico and former IBC board members Mel Robles and Ruben Carranza were totally against IBC's decision to provide airtime without an increase in revenue in terms of profit-sharing.

"We wanted to veer away from blocktiming because it goes contrary to IBC's corporate objective. Our goal is to make IBC competitive by entering into coproduction agreements and not just providing airtime," said Juico.

NBN-4, which has accumulated almost P70 million in debt to the league, calls the shots on the coverage of the games while IBC-13 provides the airtime and nothing more.

"With Solar Sports, revenue could have been assured. In fact, there was a certain level of sales that Solar Sports needed to satisfy. Otherwise, they would be penalized," said Juico.

But the PBA remains confident NBN-4 could sustain its coverage up to the end of the Reinforced Conference.

"While we are hopeful that the internal problems of our TV coveror will be resolved at the soonest possible time, the PBA is working to ensure that coverage of the games will not be disrupted," said PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

"We are gratified that the NBN group has assured us that our fans will not miss any PBA game on television," he added.

Eala said other details concerning the TV coverage will be discussed during the PBA board meeting on Tuesday.

Arcilla, 2 boxers gunning for gold

RP athletes hold own in Afro-Asian Games

By Roy Luarca

HYDERABAD, India—Top Filipino netter Johnny Arcilla joined boxers Harry Tañamor and Violito Payla in their bid for gold medals at the close of the 1st Afro-Asian Games here Friday.

Arcilla downed Congo's Sonny Kayombo, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1, Thursday to barge into the men's singles final against Indian Vijay Kannan at the SAAP Tennis Complex.

Refreshed by a 24-hour break, Tañamor and Payla will also have to contend with local rivals in their respective titular bids at the Gatchiboli Indoor Stadium.

Tañamor, bronze medalist in this year's World Boxing Championships in Thailand, tangles with Mohd Ali Qamar in the light fly category.

Two-time Tammer Cup champion Payla, on the other hand, battles Akhil Kumar for the flyweight crown.

Though the Filipinos have beaten their rivals before, coach Pat Gaspi remained cautious of his wards' chances.

"They must win clearly to avoid any chances of hometown influence in the judging," said Gaspi. "They can't afford to be complacent."

Tañamor bested Qamar in the Busan Asiad quarterfinals while Payla subdued Kumar in the 2001 Chowdry Cup semifinals in Azerbaijan.

After Day Six, the Philippines has 2 silvers and 10 bronzes, seven of them courtesy of the netters.

Czarina Mae Arevalo and Anna Patricia Santos settled for the bronze in the women's doubles Thursday, yielding to the Indian tandem of Rushmi Chakravarthy and Sanie Mirza, 6-4, 6-0, in the semifinals.

Also accounting for bronzes were the Adelo Abadia-Arevalo combine and the Arcilla-Santos pair in the mixed doubles where they bowed to Indian opponents.

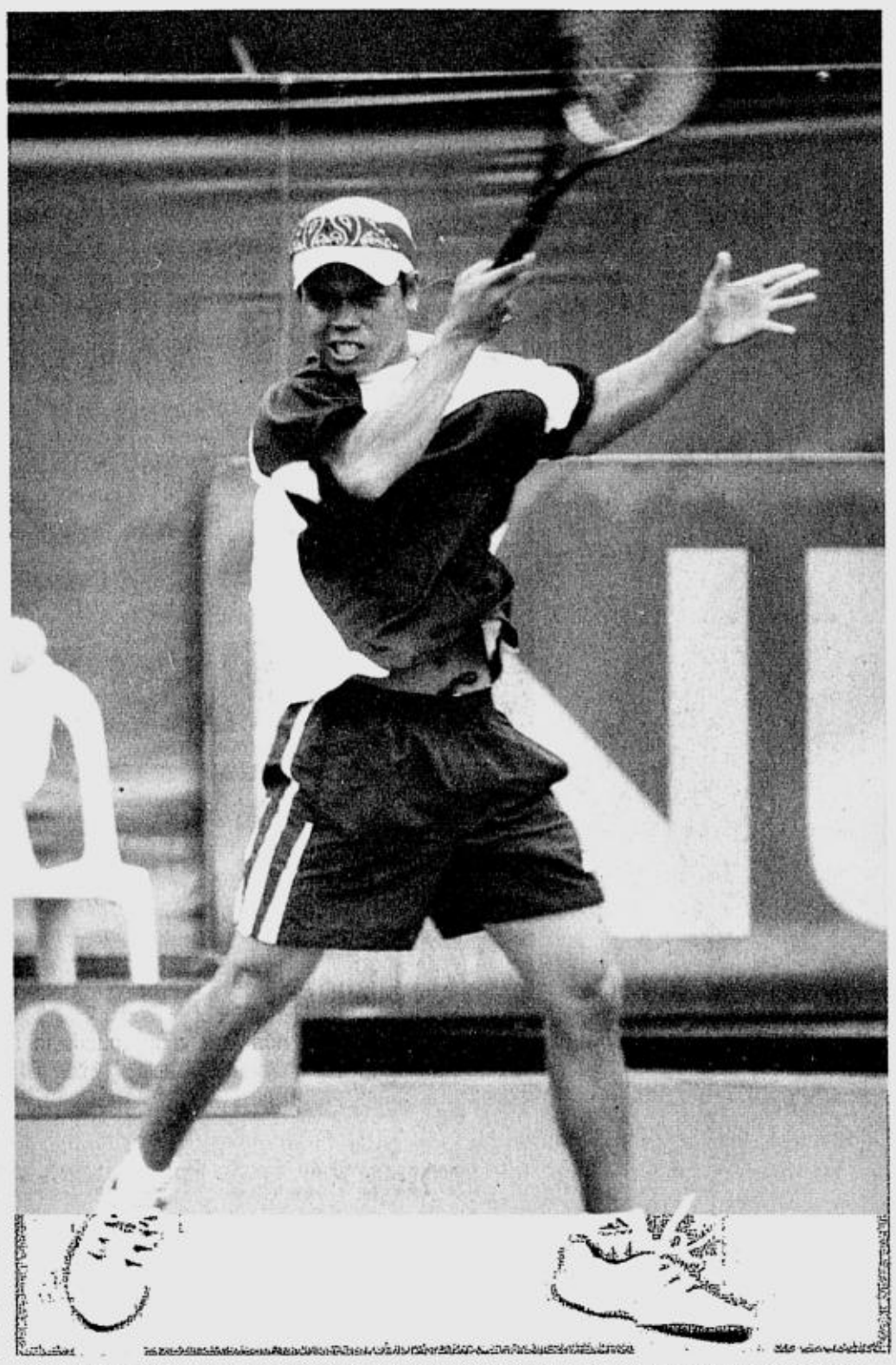
In athletics, John Lozada and the 4x400m relay team both finished sixth as they struggled in the face of superior opposition.

But Lozada's clocking of 1 minute and 50 seconds in the 800m is good enough for a gold in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December, according to Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, also the chef de mission of the Asian contingent in this 97-nation meet.

Composed of Jimar Aing, Rodrigo Tanuan, Ronnie Marfil and Ernie Candelario, the RP squad finished behind its chief rival, Thailand, in the event topped by Nigeria.

Powerhouse China stretched its dominance with a 22-gold, 10-silver, 4-bronze performance. Japan was second with 15-6-2 and South Africa third with 14-13-15. India jumped to fourth at 12-25-27.

The Philippines stood in 20th place, towing Thailand which has a 0-2-6 output.



FILIPINO Johnny makes the singles final in tennis after outlasting his Congolese rival. Below, Payla (left) and Tañamor battle Indian foes for the gold today. JESS YUSON; AFP

Buhain: Mindanao stars will shine on

PHILIPPINE Sports Commision (PSC) Chairman Eric Buhain, lauding the people of Mati, Davao Oriental, and Tubod, Lanao del Norte, for the successful staging of the Mindanao Games and the Palarong Pambansa, yesterday said he sees the rise of more athletes from Mindanao

Buhain, who never wavered in his support for Tubod's bid to host the Palarong Pambansa after the Games were postponed due to a military conflict between government and rebel forces, however said maintaining peace would be the most vital component in ensuring sports and economic development in the region.

"We have seen so many athletes with potentials to rise and become national champions in the very near future," Buhain said. "Given enough support, these athletes would infuse young blood in the national team and give our country honors in future international competitions."

"But this dream would be hard to achieve if conflict arises again amongst our people. With the peaceful staging of the Mindanao Games and the Palarong Pambansa in Mindanao, the people of the region were given a chance to realize how their own athletes could excel along with their counterparts from Luzon and the Visayas," he added.

President Macapagal-Arroyo attended the Palarong Pambansa opening to highlight the road towards peace being initiated by her government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"The President wants to highlight peace in Mindanao as among her greatest achievements in making the Philippines a strong Republic," Buhain said. "In fact, the Mindanao Games and the Palarong Pambansa were manifestations of her desire to push forward her 'Mindanao Natin' program to benefit our Moslem and Christian brothers in the region. The President never wavered on her decision to stage the Palaro in Mindanao."

Buhain also lauded Mati Mayor Francisco Rabat and the Tubod, Lanao del Norte, husband-and-wife tandem of Cong. Bobby and Gov. Imelda Dimaporo for tirelessly seeking an avenue to peace through sports.

The PSC chief also said he sees a brighter future for several athletes led by swimmer Monique Bacolod of Iligan City who became the most bemedalled athlete in both the Mindanao Games and the Palarong Pambansa. Bacolod won six gold medals in the Palaro and seven gold medals in the Mindanao Games, which Buhain said would qualify her among the next batch of athletes with potential to make it to the national training team.

"*Marami pa tayong atleta na pwedeng kunin* from Mindanao. And with proper training, they would even excel further and make it to international events like the SEA Games and the Asian Games," Buhain said.

John Lennon's reincarnation

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LET me tell you more about Eric Hidemasu Mabuchi, the John Lennon of Japan, and his three pals—Hajime Kubo (George Harrison), Hiroyuki Ueki (Paul McCartney) and Yukinobu Kabe (Ringo Starr). All four compose The Silver Beats, who happen to be (isn't it obvious?) The Beatles of Japan.

Let's continue putting aside straight sports for a while and go musical for a change, OK? After all, music, like sports, is also a universal language that we all speak without any phonetic barriers.

So, as promised, here's more Beatle trivia I had gathered in Tokyo last week when Toyota Motor Philippines brought us to the Tokyo Motor Show. If you think the Tokyo Motor Show played second fiddle to The Silver Beats, I won't blame you. Vince Socco has no objections to it, anyway.

There are other Beatle wannabes in Japan like Revolver, Wishing, Gina Z and Gar-Yiz. They all play at The Cavern in the Roppongi district of Tokyo, a replica of The Cavern in Liverpool, England, where The Beatles were discovered by Brikan Epstein and made them into what is now known as the deathless Fab Four of music.

The Japanese are Beatle fanatics so that not far from The Cavern is another Beatle pub called Abbey Road. Toyota executive Danny Isla, the Manila Times motoring editor Vernon B. Sarne and I also had a look-see of Abbey Road last week. But the group playing there was a far cry from The Silver Beats of The Cavern.

"Let's not spoil the party, Sir," pleaded Vernon. "Let's leave immediately and head straight to The Cavern. Our magical mystery tour must end at The Cavern."

Danny and I could only oblige. Vernon has this ear for genuine Beatle stuff. The huge coffee mug I use every morning at home came from Vernon; I call it the Beatle mug because The Beatles adorn both its sides and inside. Vernon bought it in a Beatle shop in New York City some years back as his *pasalubong* to me.

But back now to The Silver Beats.

Eric plays everything that John Lennon plays—rhythm guitar, piano, harmonica. And he sings only songs done by John Lennon. He doesn't only have John Lennon's nasal, raw voice. His diction is very John Lennon.

"John Lennon and I are quite similar in many ways," said Eric, who is 5-foot-11 like John Lennon. "Like John, I also saw my parents separate when I was young. I was only five when my father left us."

Eric's father, Larry Bieri, is an American from Michigan. That explains the John Lennon look in him; the American-Japanese union produced an almost flawless replica of the Chief Beatle.

"Like my mother (Seiko), he is 52 years old now," said Eric of his father, who worked as a martial arts instructor when he met Seiko some 24 years or so ago in Tokyo. "The last time I saw him was when I was 10, when he invited me over to his place in New York City. He still lives there and has the same job. We communicate via e-mail every now and then."

Does he know you have become a celebrity of sorts by being the John Lennon of Japan?

"Yes," said Eric, who has the same John Lennon frame when John Lennon was 23. "He is as excited as my mother."

Eric, whose mother works as a translator, is 23, having been born in 1980, the year John Lennon was gunned down by a crazed fan in New York City. The plate number of the green and white Mini Cooper that Eric drives reads "1980."

Eric is easily the top attraction of The Silver Beats as The Cavern is packed to the rafters almost nightly. Danny I, ever the generous Toyota marketing man, had to call The Cavern hours in advance just to reserve seats each time we felt the itch to go Beatlemania. And mind you, we had the itch four of the six nights that we were in Tokyo.

And to think that only two years ago, we were also there after Sol Juvida discovered The Cavern by accident.

Sol J had this appointment with a Filipina working for an NGO in Tokyo when she strayed into The Cavern.

When Sol J got to the hotel where we were billeted in, the first thing she did was tell me not about how her interview with the Pinay NGO went. She said: "You will never believe this, dah-lin'. The Beatles are alive in Japan."

The rest, as we love to say, is history.

***

FASTBREAK. May God have mercy on the souls of our departed, today being All Saints Day. May our cemeteries be merry as we spend the day there with our absent beloved ones.

Yao sparks Rockets' demolition of Nuggets

HOUSTON, Texas— Yao Ming gave Jeff Van Gundy the production he wanted, although the Houston Rockets' first-year coach probably wants his center to stay on the floor longer.

Yao scored 19 points in a foul-plagued 20 minutes as the Rockets cruised to a 102-85 victory over the poor-shooting Denver Nuggets in Van Gundy's debut with the team.

It was a special night for the Rockets as Van Gundy became the 10th coach in team history in the first game at the $202-million Toyota Center.

The former New York Knicks coach has made it a mandate for the offense to focus on Yao over Steve Francis, and the Chinese center responded with 15 points in the first half before foul trouble slowed him over the final 24 minutes.

"I thought I played pretty good, but I got into foul trouble and I know I can play better," Yao said. "I just had way too many fouls and I would have liked to play more."

"When you look at the fouls, some are going to be 50-50 type calls and there are others that we can help him avoid," Van Gundy said. "We need to get guys in front of him keeping the ball out of the lane so he is not in a vulnerable position."

Cuttino Mobley led Houston with 21 points and Steve Francis added 17 and six assists. The Rockets took control with a 13-5 spurt to start the second half, capped by Mobley's dunk off a feed from Francis for a 61-47 bulge with 7:28 remaining in the third quarter.

Francis also finished with six assists, adjusting to his role as more of a distributor than a scorer as Houston moves away from its free-wheeling style. Francis and Van Gundy were rumored to have clashed during training camp about the team's new offense.

"There wasn't a whole lot of guys trying to do a lot of things on their own," Francis said. "We got into sets, moved the ball around well and everybody got their shots. This year we know it's not about anyone getting a certain amount of points—it's about wins and losses."

The Nuggets missed their first seven shots of the second half and also endured a drought of more than six minutes in the fourth quarter. Denver shot just over 31 percent (11-of-35) after halftime.

Denver, which won Wednesday's opener against San Antonio, was led by Andre Miller's 19 points. Rookie Carmelo Anthony scored 14 of his 18 in the second half.

"It was a very tough 18 points," said Anthony, who committed eight of Denver's 23 turnovers. "I tried to do too much, and in the second half I calmed down a little bit. We missed a ton of shots and Houston ran on us and picked up their lead."

Yao, who had three blocks, and Kelvin Cato helped anchor a strong defensive effort by Houston. Yao provided the signature moment of the game when he rejected Anthony twice in one sequence in the first quarter. *AFP*

HOUSTON Rockets center Yao Ming and new Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy are a contrast in height during a break in their game with the Denver Nuggets Thursday. REUTERS

George leads Hornets Lynch-ing of Magic

ORLANDO, Florida—George Lynch scored on a fast-break layup with 36 seconds left as the New Orleans Hornets beat Orlando, 100-98, in the Magic's home opener.

David Wesley scored 28 points for New Orleans, while Jamaal Magloire had 27 and Baron Davis added 22 points and eight assists late Thursday.

Orlando's Tracy McGrady scored 33 points, but Magloire blocked his potential tying layup with 3.9 seconds to go. McGrady also had seven rebounds and six assists. Drew Gooden added 16 points and 11 rebounds.

In Saitama, Japan, Rashard Lewis scored 25 points and Ronald Murray added 24 as Seattle spoiled Mike Dunleavy's coaching debut with Los Angeles.

Lewis made two 3-pointers in a third-quarter run that gave the SuperSonics an 83-69 lead heading to the fourth.

The Clippers closed the gap to four points late in the final quarter at Saitama Super Arena. With less than a minute to go, Clippers guard Eddie House sank a 3-pointer, and Corey Maggette's score made the margin four. But Calvin Booth's dunk with 20.6 seconds left put the game out of reach.

The NBA's future was showcased in Phoenix, and 20-year-old Amare Stoudemire and Phoenix came away with a victory over 18-year-old LeBron James and Cleveland.

Stoudemire, last season's rookie of the year, scored 25 points—including a pair of three-point plays in a 10-3 fourth-quarter run—and grabbed eight rebounds.

James, with an array of soaring dunks, hanging bank shots, leaping rebounds and slick passes, had 21 points and eight assists, but had seven turnovers.

The teen sensation had just one turnover in 42 minutes in his 25-point NBA debut in Sacramento on Wednesday night.

Stephon Marbury scored 24 for the Suns.

Ricky Davis scored 22 points for the Cavs on 9-for-23 shooting. Carlos Boozer had 11 points.

Shawn Marion had 15 points for Phoenix. *AP*

BASKETBALL: NBA Action; 8:30 a.m. (r-8:30 p.m.); ESPN—Get your fill of NBA news and highlights in this 30-minute program.

NBA - Bucks vs Pacers; 8 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports; Timberwolves vs Nets; 9 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); ESPN; Sonics vs Clippers; 11 a.m. (r-10:30 p.m.); Solar Sports—Milwaukee challenges Indiana while new look Minnesota travels to New Jersey and Seattle takes on Los Angeles in Japan.

POOL: World Pool Masters 2003; 7:30 p.m. (r-11:30 p.m.); ESPN—Europe finest pool sharks Ralf Souquet and Mika Immonen battle each other.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV
Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

Jacobson 2 up after 64 in Volvo Masters

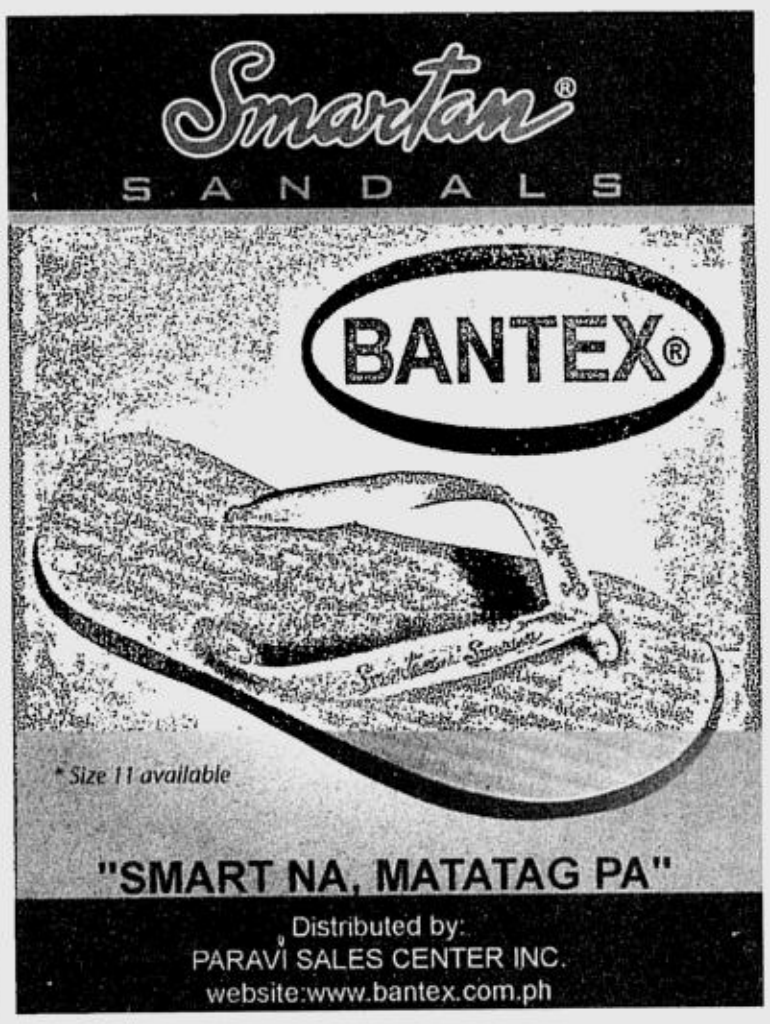
SOTOGRANDE, Spain—Sweden's Fredrik Jacobson fired a brilliant eight-under-par 64 in tugging winds at Valderrama on Thursday to move two strokes clear of the field in the Volvo Masters first round.

The 29-year-old from Molndal, twice a winner on this season's European Tour, mixed nine birdies with a bogey at the par-three 15th to complete the second-best round of his career.

Marginally better, he told a news conference, was the 60 he shot in the opening round of last month's German Masters at Gut Larrchenhof.

"Both are great rounds in a way but coming close to a 59 is something special, so I've got to vote for that," he said.

Jacobson's 64 left him two ahead of Danish early leader Anders Hansen, who produced a blemish-free 66 playing on his own in bright morning sunshine at the head of the 57-strong field. *Reuters*



Roddick on top of world

PARIS—Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain surrendered his world No.1 ranking to American Andy Roddick by losing Thursday to Czech player Jiri Novak at the Paris Masters third round, while Roddick won convincingly.

Second-seeded Roddick, who dominated 16th seed Tommy Robredo of Spain, 6-3, 6-4, will take over as No.1 for the first time in his career when rankings are published Monday.

"I've got to No. 1 and no one can ever take that away from me," Roddick said. "But I like to be greedy and I want to stay there for a long time."

"When I was 12 years old I was still trying to figure out how to tie my shoelaces," the 21-year-old joked. "Being No. 1 was a long way off. It's not something I thought would happen."

Ferrero had held the top spot since Sept. 8, when he took it from Andre Agassi. Top seed at Paris, he lost, 7-5, 7-5, to Novak.

Meanwhile, third-seeded Roger Federer of Switzerland outlasted 13 seed and French Open runner-up Martin Verkerk of the Netherlands, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (12), 7-6 (6), in a tense center-court match.

Roddick, at 21 years, 2 months and 4 days, will become Monday the fourth youngest ever world No. 1. Australian Lleyton Hewitt remains the youngest after he clinched the top spot aged 20 years and 8 months in November 2001.

Additionally, Roddick is the sixth American and 22nd player ever to be No. 1 since ATP rankings began in 1973.

RODDICK returns a backhand to Tommy Robredo of Spain. AFP

He next faces Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman in the Paris quarters.

Novak advanced to a quarterfinal against Morocco's Hicham Arazi, who beat No. 8 Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand, 7-6, 6-3.

Paradorn needed to win the Paris Masters to secure the eighth and final Masters Cup spot.

His defeat, and earlier losses in Paris by Australia's Mark Philippoussis and Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean, means 21-year-old David Nalbandian of Argentina clinches the final berth.

Fifth seed Rainer Schuettler of Germany beat No. 10 Nicolas Massu of Chile, 6-4, 7-5, to advance to a quarterfinal Friday against Andrei Pavel of Romania.

In Thursday's final match, Tim Henman of Britain continued his fine form in the tournament with a comfortable 6-4, 6-2 win over three-time French Open winner Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

Pierce makes happy return to Canada

QUEBEC CITY, Canada—France's Mary Pierce made her compatriots happy Thursday by reaching the quarterfinals of the $170,000 WTA Bell Challenge.

Pierce avoided a three-match losing streak with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) second-round victory over Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic.

Pierce, who received a first-round bye, plays under the French flag and lives in Florida but was born in Montreal nearly 29 years ago.

She is making her debut at this Tier III indoor event.

Struggling with injuries in recent years, Pierce has not won a title since the 2000 French Open. This week affords her a good chance to claim her 16th career singles crown, with many of the top players either resting for next week's WTA Tour Championships or playing in Philadelphia.

Pierce's next foe is 108th-ranked Slovakian Lubomira Kurhajcova.

Second seed Maria Sharapova also advanced, with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Belgian Els Callens.

The 16-year-old Russian is having a breakthrough year, having won her first title earlier this month in Tokyo.

Sixth seed Marion Bartoli of France topped Swedish qualifier Sofia Arvidsson, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, for her first quarterfinal appearance since Strasbourg in May. *AFP*

Mayweather stakes unbeaten record vs N'dou

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan—Undefeated Floyd Mayweather Jr. risks his World Boxing Council lightweight crown here Saturday in a homecoming bout with South African slugger Phillip N'dou with an eye toward bigger prizes.

Mayweather, 30-0 with 20 knockouts, wants an impressive showing against powerful N'dou, 31-1 with 30 knockouts, before moving into the welterweight ranks, which would leave all three major lightweight titles vacant.

Topping Mayweather's wish list is Nicaraguan Ricardo Mayorga, the WBC and World Boxing Association welterweight champion who will fight Corey Spinks for the undisputed welterweight crown in December at Atlantic City.

But before looking ahead, Mayweather must try to defuse a fighter nicknamed "Time Bomb" who has stopped all but one victim inside the distance and has not lost in 21 fights over the past five years. *AFP*

BATTLE OF CHAMPIONS

Archer cracks Django for title

By Dennis U. Eroa

AMERICAN Johnny Archer, capping a sizzling show with an ace, played a Halloween trick on Filipino pool fans as he outfoxed local hero Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 13-10, to pocket the $20,000 top purse in the On Cue II: Battle of Champions last night.

Called the Scorpion for his sharp, stinging shots, the 35-year-old native of Atlanta, Georgia displayed awesome 9-ball mastery as he often left Bustamante to ponder his fate on the chair.

Up 12-10 in the race to 13, Archer sank the 9-ball on the break in the 23rd frame to the dismay of a jampacked crowd at the Robinson's Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

Archer did not only keep Bustamante at bay with his safeties, but was also unbeatable when it came to breaking and getting the right angles.

"Right at the end, I knew Django's capable of coming back. I told myself to hit a solid break at the end and it worked," said Archer after winning his sixth tournament this year. It was his first title in Manila.

Before yesterday's brilliant victory, the American pool shark, who played in the eliminations with borrowed cue sticks, topped the Brunswick Pro Players, IBC Western Canadian Open, SE Open 9-ball, Predator Central Florida 9-ball and the Molson Cup.

He proceeds to Tokyo for the IBC Open.

Bustamante, who earned $10,000 in the four-day tournament sponsored by LG Flatron and organized by ABS-CBN Broadcasting and Puyat Sports, gave his best to keep Archer off-guard.

Archer was ahead, 9-7, when a jumpshot on the 1-ball which earned tremendous applause seemed to have given Bustamante the needed momentum.

The Filipino pool star used the safety for his next shot but the confident Archer dashed Bustamante's hopes with a trick shot that led to a 2-9 combination to make it 10-7.

From thereon, things went downhill for Bustamante as Archer hardly blinked despite tremendous pressure poised by his rival in the ensuing racks.

"I'm very pleased, the welcome and respect accorded us by fans here was truly unforgettable," said Archer who promised to come back.

Germany'S Thorsten Hohmann whipped Fil-Canadian Alex Pagulayan, 11-5, to salvage third place and pocket $5,000 in this four-day event featuring the world's best cue artists.

The 24-year-old Hohmann, who also beat Pagulayan in the finals of this year's World Pool championship in Cardiff, Wales, exploited Pagulayan's erratic game to score the victory

"I'm very happy with this win," said Hohmann, whose other passion is music and swimming.

Hohmann lost to Pagulayan in the eliminations, 7-6, but was clearly in command despite trailing 2-3 early in the match

The third German after veterans Ralf Souquet and Oliver Ortmann to sizzle in the international pool arena used his powerful breaking game to win the next four racks, 6-3. He never looked back after that as Pagulayan, a resident of Taguig before migrating to Toronto, Canada three years ago, played without his usual fire.

Despite the setback, Pagulayan, who won $3,000, endeared himself to the crowd with his boyish antics. A son of a nanny, Pagulayan also regaled the fans with trick shots before the start of the championship between Bustamante and Archer.

"I'm more happy if I'm losing," Pagulayan joked. He earlier brought the house down when he said: "If you're not lucky, you're unlucky."

Pagulayan said he is competing in the Japan Open next week.

ARCHER, shown in file photo, outplays Bustamante with his solid breaks.

Caddies golf patron dies

CHENG, 56.

UP to his very last breath, Robert Cheng was playing the game closest to his heart.

Cheng, the business tycoon whose love for golf gave birth to the world's only tournament for caddies, died of a massive heart attack after collapsing while he was hitting balls at the Royal Maru driving range in Quezon City last Wednesday. He was 58.

Cheng expired at the Gen. Malvar Hospital where he was brought by driving range officials. He was said to be honing his game in preparation for the forthcoming 15th staging of the National Inter-caddies tournament, sponsored by his company Uratex.

Until his sudden demise, Cheng has been one of the foremost patrons of golf, spending millions for the unique caddies event that assembles the best shotmakers among the bagtoters all over the country.

Col. Abe Villanueva, who has been helping Cheng put up the caddies tilt annually, told the INQUIRER that the Cheng family has committed to push through with this year's tournament set on Nov. 24-28 at the Valley Golf and Country Club.

Cheng, the founder of RGC Group of Companies which has the Uratex Computerized Foam as its core business, is survived by his wife Naty, son Big Boy and daughters Pinky Cheng-Rosagas and Peachy Cheng-Medina.

His remains will be cremated today after lying in state at the Funeraria Paz the past two days.

HOWELL waves to the gallery after a birdie.

Howell leads Chrysler with eagle-aided 66

PALM HARBOR, Florida—Charles Howell III posted a five-under-par 66 to move into a one-shot lead after the opening round of the Chrysler Championship on Thursday.

Veteran Dan Forsman stands alone in second on 67, a stroke ahead of Robert Gamez, Jerry Kelly, Chad Campbell and Argentina's Jose Coceres in a tie for third place.

World No.4 Davis Love III is another stroke back in a tie for seventh with South Africa's Retief Goosen.

Fiji's Vijay Singh, the world No. 2, carded a one-under 70, as did world No. 3 Ernie Els of South Africa.

Should Singh win this event, he would lock up the PGA Tour money earnings title, depriving world No. 1 Tiger Woods of an honor he has earned each year since 1999.

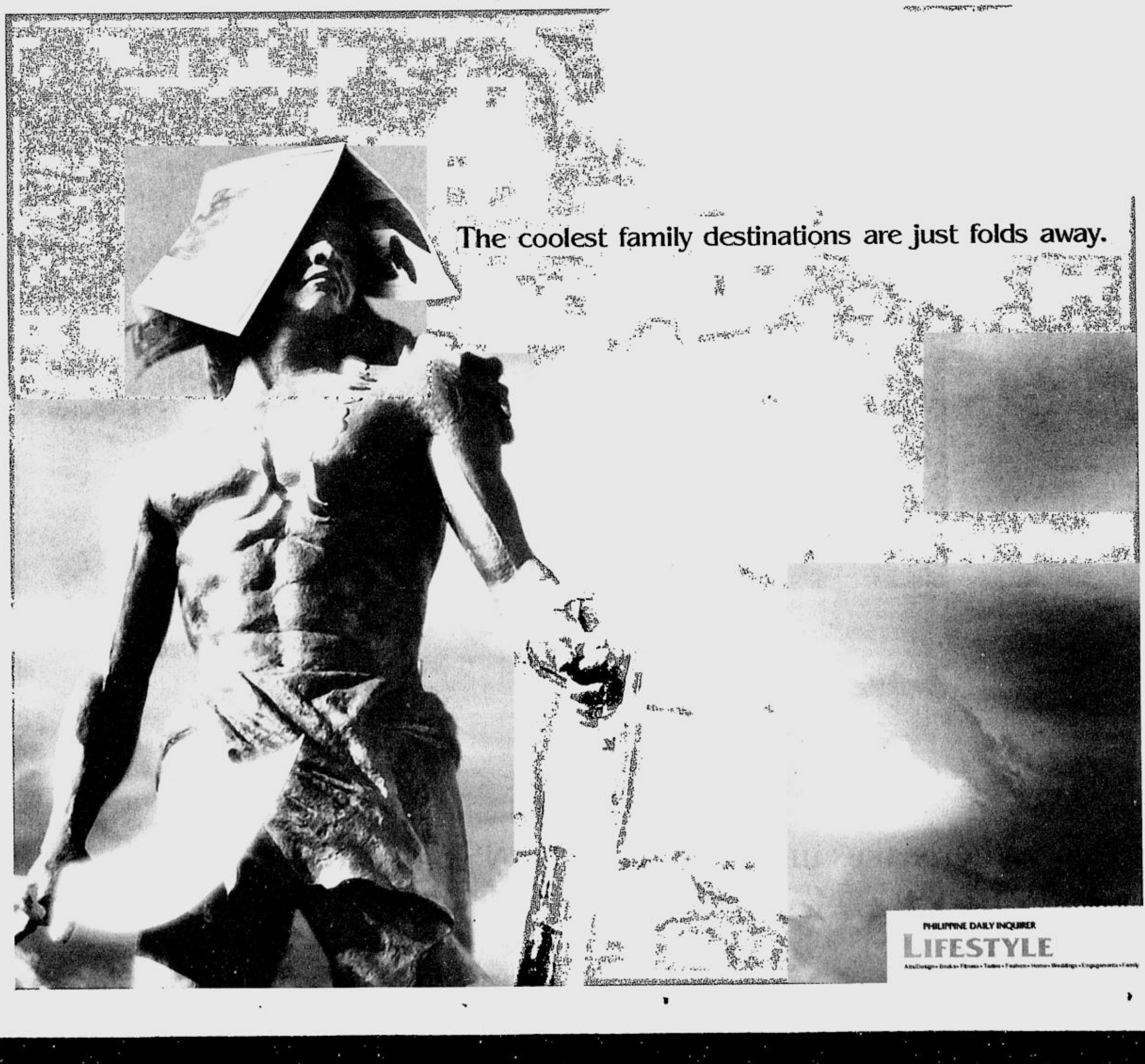
Singh won the Funai Classic last week as Woods, who is not playing this week, finished in a tie for second.

Howell, a 24-year-old who won his first tour title last season, said he was happy to return to a difficult golf course such as the par-71, 7,295-yard Copperhead Course.

"I much prefer a tournament like this where par is rewarded over a tournament like last week where you have to make a lot of birdies, definitely," Howell said.

"I will take this style of golf every day over the others."

Copperhead played more than two strokes above its par, with the field needing an average of 73.106 strokes per player. *Reuters*



HONTIVEROS: Man of the hour.

Up close with Steve Hontiveros

By Anthony Suntay

STEPHEN Hontiveros is literally on top of the world. As president of the FIQ, the governing body for bowling, he becomes only the third Filipino to hold the highest position in a world sports body. He was inducted into the De La Salle Sports Hall of Fame last March 1. He also made it to the Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum in 1995. He will be the Chef de Mission of the Philippine contingent in the Olympic Games in Athens next year.

INQUIRER: You must be so proud of the achievements of your athletes in winning world events?

HONTIVEROS: We are very proud of the accomplishments of our bowlers. First, the women's trio not only came from behind, but they broke the world record in the process. We are equally very proud of CJ (Suarez), since he is only the second Filipino male to ever win the World Cup other than Paeng (Nepomuceno).

INQUIRER: Why has this been such a great year for the Philippines in bowling?

HONTIVEROS: We are having a great year, first of all because it is definitely a blessing from God. We also have our officers and board members of the PBC who have been working very hard for the sport. Of course, we also have to give a lot of credit to the coaching staff especially Johnson Cheng who has not only served as the head coach, but as the team manager as well together with Nena Yap. The PBC is also blessed with numerous sponsors and supporters who have been with us throughout these years namely Bowlmart, Prima, Boysen, Storm, the POC and the PSC. Lastly, we have to thank all the members of the PBC for their continued support not only for our athletes but to all the programs of the PBC.

INQUIRER: After a banner 2003, what can you do for an encore?

HONTIVEROS: As we have always done in the past, we take each year as it comes. This year will definitely be hard to top. But we have full trust in our coaching staff and our athletes that they will do their best in all the tournaments and that is all we ask of them.

INQUIRER: With the head office of bowling now being in the country, will you be able to promote and propagate the sport more now.

HONTIVEROS: Of course, but the ultimate goal of the FIQ is to be included in the Olympics. There are also other immediate programs that we hopefully would be able to establish during the first presidium meeting of the FIQ. We will definitely push for bowling to be back in the SEA Games especially in Manila for 2005.

We would also like to see bowling in the Philippines develop more and maybe have a Philippine tour, something like the Asian Bowling Tour.

LA wildfire puts Barrera on the run

By Salven L. Lagumbay

POUND-FOR-POUND boxing great Marco Antonio Barrera found himself literally in the line of fire and was forced to evacuate from his Big Bear camp in Los Angeles yesterday following what Fightnews described as a "horrific fire raging through Southern California."

Barrera, along with all members of his training camp, was asked by the Sheriff department to leave Oscar De La Hoya's training facility pronto, as safety precaution.

The Mexican ring idol has been holed up in the high-altitude Big Bear area for a couple of weeks now as he prepares for the real fire on November 15 with a showdown against Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

"I'd like to thank the Sheriff's department and the emergency workers who are out there trying to keep us safe in this horrible time," said Barrera, as quoted by Fightnews.

Shortly after, Barrera was seen spending the night at the plush Hilton Hotel in Pasadena, before resuming his rigid preparation at the Oscar De La Hoya Youth Center in East LA.

Barrera will leave for San Antonio today where he plans to continue his training for Pacquiao, two weeks before the big event.

The Mexican ring icon believes spending two weeks in the area will benefit his conditioning for the Pacquiao fight.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, will continue training at the Wild Card Gym in downtown LA under trainer Freddie Roach before moving to San Antonio a few days prior to fight date.

Barrera vs Pacquiao is a 12-round event dubbed "Clash of the Titans" for the People's Championship of the World.

The winner will move on to become the mandatory challenger to the WBC featherweight title, or accept a chance to challenge the winner of the WBA-IBF unification match this Sunday between champions Derrick Gainer and Juan Marquez.

BARRERA prepares for "fiery" date with Filipino champion Manny Pacquiao.

Word war grows ugly in WBC Int'l title fight

REACTING to WBC International flyweight champ Randy Mangubat's vow to break his jaw, challenger Diosdado Gabi yesterday launched an acid verbal assault. Gabi told the champ not to offer any alibis when he dethrones him on November 9 in the main event of the "Encuentro" card at the North Cotabato Provincial Gymnasium.

Mangubat will defend the World Boxing Council International flyweight crown against the talented Gabi in a San Miguel Corporation-backed 12-round war in Kidapawan City.

"It's easy to talk. But he will end up eating his words," Gabi countered when asked to comment on Mangubat's taunt that he would break the challenger's jaw.

"Many believe Mangubat is the stronger puncher in this fight, but I'm going to warn him that I have never been floored in my career—not in a fight, not in sparring, not in street fights," Gabi said angrily.

The veteran Mangubat parades a 31-18-11 win-loss-draw record with 14 KO's, which translates to a mere 45 percent knockout rate.

Gabi, on the other hand, boasts of a 23-2-1 win-loss-draw ledger with 19 KO's, which equates to a whopping 83 percent rate.

"See, if Mangubat boasts of knocking me out, then he's got a big thing coming," warns Gabi.

Gabi is also confident his over-all boxing skills will be too much for Mangubat to handle. Several of his sparmates have complained of severe beating in the gym, owing to Gabi's vast defensive arsenal and quick moves.

"Mangubat can't hit what he can't see," assured Gabi. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Colayco, Guerrero dominate Auto Ghymkhana II

JV Colayco and Dahlia Guerrero checked in with the fastest times to prevail over tough rivals in the recent Auto Gymkhana II Race at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Driving a Mitsubishi Evolution 7, Colayco clocked 1 minute 32.385 seconds to rule Bracket A by just 0.451 seconds over the Group N Racing Team duo of Edwin Lipat, who posted 1:32.836, and Felix Perez, who finished third in 1:32.964.

Guerrero, aboard a Subaru Impreza, banked on her mastery of the track to register a time of 1:40.082 and rule Bracket B by just 0.315 seconds over Nelson Armamento (1:40.397) and third placer Sonny de Torres (1:40.462).

Over 30 auto enthusiasts joined the event organized by Group N Racing Shop, Matonetics, and A3 Motorsports and sponsored by Bridgestone Potenza and Malayan Automaster Insurance.

Races were held in different time bracket categories on the 2.8km BRC course.

Ruling the other classes were Joezel Cruz and Edgardo Silaw.

Cruz, in a turbo-charged Honda Civic VTI, clocked 1:48.297 to claim Bracket C honors over Kenneth Bleza of Honda Cars Kalookan and Raymond Conti of Malayan Automasters.

Silaw nipped Jeffrey Catapang for Bracket D honors. Silaw clocked 1:58.346. Juko Matriano finished third with 2:03.114.

Prospective entries for the next event in January 2004 may send their inquiries and mobile phone numbers to a3motorsports@yahoo.com.

SOUTH Korea's Ahn Shi-hyun watches her drive on the 16th hole during the first round of the CJ Nine Bridges Classic on Jeju Island, South Korea, Friday. AP

Korean leads Nine Bridges Classic golf

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea—Ahn Shi-hyun, the 2003 South Korean rookie of the year, tied the course record with a 7-under 65 Friday in the first round of the CJ Nine Bridges Classic.

The 17-year-old Ahn carded seven birdies on a bogey-free round to equal the course record set by South Korea's Se Ri Pak last year on the resort island of Jeju.

"I am very excited about today, and never expected it," Ahn said. "Every putt was good, even the long putts," said Ahn, who had 28 putts and hit 17 greens to take a one-stroke lead over Grace Park.

Ahn sank a 10-meter birdie putt on the par-4 sixth hole and carded four consecutive birdies on the back nine.

Michelle Wie, the 13-year-old Korean American widely considered the future of women's golf, shot 85 to take up last place on the 69-player field.

"I never played this bad in three years," the disappointed Wie told reporters. "After my first drive, I wasn't feeling really confident and then I got a little uncomfortable, and that's why I kept on going right," she said.

Trouble began on the first hole, when Wie's tee shot was lost in the trees and she double bogeyed. Wie's tee shot on the par-3 second hole went into the rough, and she needed two shots to hit the green before finishing with a bogey.

She had a triple bogey on the Par-4 fourth hole when her third shot went over the green and into a hazard.

Grace Park shot one eagle, six birdies and two bogeys to finish at 66. *AP*

Fil-Am pug belittles Bobby Pacquiao

FIL-AM brawler Arnick Arabala of Colorado yesterday predicted an easy knockout win over Philippine junior lightweight champion Bobby Pacquiao when they tangle in the "Encuentro" card on Nov. 9 at the North Cotabato Provincial Gymnasium.

The Pacquiao-Arabala fight is the chief supporting bout to the Randy Mangubat-Diosdado Gabi WBC International flyweight championship being promoted by Kidapawan's Socrates Piñol.

Arabala, 24, showed no respect for Pacquiao's ring improvement, hinting that the GenSan native cannot approximate the opponents he had been facing in the United States.

"Bobby Pacquiao is nothing special. I'm coming to win impressively. Three rounds would be too long," declared Arabala, virtually opening a verbal assault that will have to climax on November 9.

Arabala had been campaigning at the Denver, Colorado area before coming to the country to face Pacquiao.

Among the fighters he had faced in the US were Americans Corey Alarcon and Frank Martinez, Mexicans Cesar Morales and Otoniel Espinosa and Fil-Am Arnel Salvana.

The "Encuentro" card, backed by San Miguel Corporation, is the biggest boxing event in Mindanao this year. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

3rd Dodo Ayuyao rally set Nov. 15

THE AUTOMOBILE Association Philippines (formerly PMA) will stage the 3rd Dodo Ayuyao Sampaguita rally on Nov. 15.

This year's event, with a new route, a different location and new category, promises to be more competitive.

Named in honor of the late president of the AAP Conrado "Dodo" Ayuyao, considered to be the Dean of Philippine Motorsports, the rally will cover the roads east of Metro Manila in the provinces of Rizal and Laguna.

Aside from the two major categories in contention, the Novice and the Overall class, this year's rally will also have an award for the Manufacturer's Team with the best logged-in time.

Ochoa, So best placed among Youth chessers

KARL Victor Ochoa and Wesley So emerged the top Filipino performers after Thursday's eighth round of the 2003 World Youth chess championship in Halkidiki, Greece.

Ochoa upset FIDE Master Fabiano Caruana of the US to raise his total to 5.5 points and move up to a tie for 11th-18th place in the boys' 12-under division.

So, the Shell kiddie grand champion, also had 5.5 points following a win over Vladimir Belous of Russia that boosted him to a share of 14th-23rd place in the boys' 10-under.

Six other Filipinos, led by national master Oliver Barbosa in the boys' 18-under, scored Thursday although they remained deep down in the standings.

The lone RP loser for the day was Jan Jodilyn Fronda, who bowed to Gundula Madanasri of India and dropped to a tie for 15th-23rd position with 5 points in the girls' 10-under.

Barbosa downed Luxemborg's Christian Jeitz with black and raised his output to 4.5 points.

Despite the win, Barbosa stood in a tie for 30th-44th place.

The other winners were Julius Joseph de Ramos (boys' 16-under), Sherily Cua (girls' 16-under), Nelson Mariano III (boys' 14-under) and Cindy Atayde (girls' 14-under).

De Ramos beat Amadeus Eisenbeiser of Germany to gain a tie for 49th-61 place with 4 points, the same total of Cua following her win over Petra Valisckova of the Czech Republic that lifted her to a share of 28th-43rd place.

Mariano bested Andrei Romanshko of Ukraine to join the group tied for 40th-51st with 4.5 points. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

SPORTSWATCH

BIGGEST PAL INTERCLUB: The Philippine Airlines Interclub, the country's largest golfing event, converges on Cagayan de Oro for its 57th championships from Feb. 26-Mar. 6 next year. Dubbed "Against All Odds," the tournament has lured a record field of over 150 teams, including more than 60 international squads. Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club and Del Monte Golf Club will jointly host the tournament. Joining hands to formally launch the 57th PAL Interclub during the first Team Captains' Meeting recently are (from left) Felix Cruz, PAL vice president for marketing; Domingo Duerme Jr., Interclub chair; Miguel Comique, golf chair of Del Monte GC; Rodolfo Menes, president of Pueblo de Oro GCC; Honorio Ramos Jr., representative of Mayor Vicente Emano and Licerio Cruz, PAL Cagayan de Oro branch manager.

Visiting netters flex muscles in Cagayan

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Lani Enriquez of Basilan province ousted Juzene Mendoza of Gen. Santos City, 6-0, 6-2, in the girls' 12-under division Wednesday to lead the assault of the visiting netters in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop Wednesday at the Nazareth Tennis Club here. Enriquez, representing Isabela Tennis Club, duplicated the feat of Cebu's Janjie Soquino, who ousted Juv Alban of Surigao City, 6-4, 6-3 in the boys' 18-under bracket. Rick Marabe of Valencia, Bukidnon, turned back Jeza Mendoza, 6-2, 7-5, in the unisex 10-under class and Juke Alban of Surigao downed Bobby Chio of San Beda Manila, 6-3, 6-3, in the boys' 14-under category. Digos age groupers Efren Macasinag, Ryan Bendijo and Ian Delvo also advanced in their respective divisions in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and NBN-4's Sunday TV show "Sports Kids."

Milo Little Olympics meetings slated

ORGANIZERS will hold a series of meetings among school representatives and coaches of teams seeing action in the 11 sports events calendared in the 2003 Milo Little Olympics starting Monday at the Milo secretariat office at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The meetings will be held on Nov. 3 for athletics (8-10 a.m.), swimming (10-12 noon) and sepak takraw (1-3 p.m.), on Nov. 4 for volleyball (8-10 a.m.), badminton (10-12 noon), and chess (1-3 p.m.) and on Nov. 5 for gymnastics (8-10 a.m.), football and lawn tennis (10-12 noon), and table tennis (1-3 p.m.). Taekwondo has set a Nov. 21 deadline for submission of entries, with the captains' meeting set on the same day. Meet director Dr. Robert Milton Calo reminded participating schools to complete their requirements before the Nov. 7 deadline of registration.

Imus to host Cavite Cup badminton

IMUS, Cavite throws its support to the national sports development program with the staging of the first Cavite Badminton Open Championships on Nov. 29 at the Racquet Xtreme Badminton Courts in this town. The month-long tournament will feature the best and upcoming athletes of Imus, which hopes to eventually provide the Philippine team with candidate players for national and international competitions. "The 1st Cavite Open is our humble way of launching a series of sporting events that will hopefully help boost our national training pools," said Imus Mayor Homer Saquilayan. To be played every weekend of November, the event, organized by the Cavite Shuttlers Association, is open to all Caviteños and residents who have lived in the province in the last year. Competitions will be in the 14-and-under, 18-under, 30-44 years old executive and 45-above and Open divisions. Entry forms can be obtained at the Racquet Xtreme Courts at Km. 21, Aguinaldo Highway in Imus, Cavite.

Army Cavaliers rule PMA sportfest

THE ARMY cavaliers won the overall crown in the recent Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc. (PMAAAI) Sportsfest at the Camp Aguinaldo grounds in Quezon City. Led by Army chief of staff Maj. Gen. Romeo P. Tolentino, association president for Army Col. Arthur Tabaquero and athletic representative Col. Dante Q. Costes, the Army cavaliers, spouses and dependents dominated most of the events in the competitions. The Army cavaliers won in the 5x100m Generals' relay, 5x100m relay, 8x50m relay, obstacle course and tug of war, while their spouses and dependents outmuscled their counterparts in the tug of war and obstacle course.

National duathlon set Nov. 30 in Clark

SOME 200 athletes and riders from Pampanga, Baguio, Pangasinan, Laguna, Visayas, Mindanao and Metro Manila are vying in the 2nd National Duathlon Championships set Nov. 30 at the Clearwater Country Club inside the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga. The duathlon—featuring a 10km run, 40km bike ride and 5km run—will select members of the national team. Defending champion and Powerman Malaysia veteran Ryan Mendoza of the Air Force is expected to be challenged by Perlito Ibanze and Mark Candelaria of Laguna, George Vilog of Davao, JR Obial of the University of the Philippines and Jeff Valdez of Baguio City. The distaff side will be a showdown among Anna Marissa "Popo" Nagtalon, Sandra Araullo, Michelle Ferrer-Montes, Pia Cayetano, Mimi Lucas and Analiza Dysangco. Categories in the event, sponsored by Enervon, Speedo, Monoc Bike Frames, Reliv Philippines, Clark Development Corp., ProMax, Clearwater Country Club, Philippine Sports Commission and the POC Sports For All Commission, include Male Elite, Female Elite, Male U/23, Female U/23 and age-groups for participants aged 20-24 until 55-over.

TIGERS CLINICS: The Coca-Cola Tigers held the Coca-Cola Champions Basketball Clinic for the youth of Lucena City at the Enverga University gym (above) and treated street children to a day of fun and games in Bacolod City at the Bacolod Boy's Town (top) recently. The clinic and the outreach program are part of the company's "Healthy and Active Lifestyle" program, endorsed by the Department of Health, which aims to promote a daily balanced diet, proper hydration and adequate physical activity. Tigers head coach Chot Reyes handles the clinic, assisted by his United States Basketball Academy-certified coaching staff and playing members of the team. The Tigers' visit to the two cities coincided with the team's out-of-town games against Sta. Lucia Realty and FedEx, respectively.

1ST EPSON CUP

Team FHM wraps it up

TEAM FHM dominated the field to rule the First Epson Cup badminton tournament held recently at Pioneer Badminton in Mandaluyong City.

Team captain Alma Santos spearheaded FHM's title bid against the top shuttlecock artists of Team Epson, Pioneer Badminton and Whistlestop after two days of grueling competition.

The core of the talented FHM team bagged the 1st Gokongwei Cup early this year before reigning supreme in the event, also sponsored by Victor, Pacific Internet and the Philippine Badminton Network.

Other backers include radio stations Magic 89.9 WTM, Wave 89.1, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-lite and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The Pioneer Badminton team, led by skipper Dea Alonzo, fiercely battled Team FHM but came up short and settled for second place. Whistlestop and Team Epson wound up third and fourth, respectively.

BETH Tamayo of Pioneer prepares to return a serve in the mixed doubles.

Epson marketing head Randy Kanapi hailed the success of the event and vowed to continue supporting the development of the sport in the country.

Edmin Tarriela, one of the prime movers behind the event, said another tournament is being planned in December to further develop the skills of Pioneer Badminton habitues.

"We're planning a small tournament this Christmas season. It's basically for pioneer badminton regulars. Our objective is for these players to hone their skills and prepare for bigger open tournaments in the future," said Tarriela.

A total of 320 badminton enthusiasts flocked to Pioneer Badminton over the weekend and competed for supremacy in the mens', ladies' and mixed doubles categories.

Paclibar, Villarin survive 3-setters, reach semifinals

MICHAEL Paclibar and Marlon Villarin pulled off hard-earned victories yesterday to enter the boys' 18-under singles semifinals in the Toby's Age-Group Badminton Championships at the La Salle-Greenhills gym.

Paclibar scored a 10-15, 15-8, 15-10 victory over Rhaul Angeles to advance against Mark Alvin Natividad, a 15-3, 15-11 winner over Jervy Espiritu.

Villarin fought back from a first-set loss to prevail over Ericden Dionisio, 5-15, 15-8, 15-4, and set up a semifinal meeting with Wilmer Frias, who beat Pierre Arden Pantig, 15-2, 15-6.

In the girls' 18-under singles, Chona Rivera blasted Celine Lucila, 11-0, 11-0, Rachelle Chantong clobbered Geene Plata, 11-1, 11-0, Mary Ann Crisostomo downed Zarina Barbo, 13-10, 11-3, and Jollylin Rodil whipped Isabel Jalbuena, 11-1, 11-1, to gain semifinal berths.

Winners in the girls' 18-under doubles were Rivera-Rodil over Lucila-Christine Vizmonte, 15-0, 15-0, Michelle Emilyn Fuentes-Aiza Pelagio over Camille Hernandez-Jessalyn Madraso, 15-0, 15-1, Jamelle Vicencio-Jennalyn Vincencio over Jennifer Horn-Rachelle Chantong, 15-5, 15-9, and Isabel Jalbuena-Gianna Banson over Gene Plata-Berna Angangco, 15-1, 15-1.

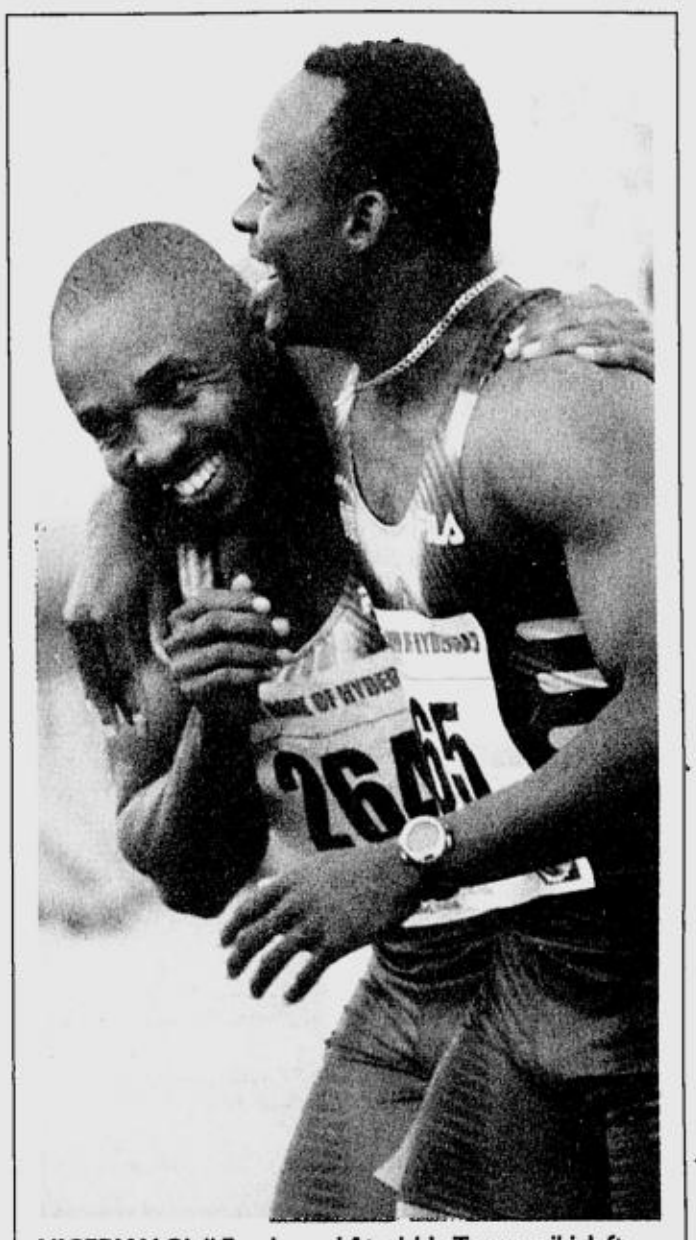
In the girls' 14-under singles, Janina Paredes outclassed Jacklyn Cudia, 11-1, 11-0, to forge a semifinal duel with Carla Jenina Lizardo, an 11-1, 11-7 winner over Rochelle Ann Reyes.

Playing in the other semifinal match will be Karyn Velez, who blanked E.Cuevas, 11-0, 11-0, and Lisa Denise Encarnacion, a 13-12, 11-1 winner over Mia Angela Villarin.

In the boys' 14-under singles, Kevin Dalisay defeated Joeffre Arollado, 15-5, 15-8, to advance in the semifinals against Renz Marion Vibas, 15-4, 15-2 winner over Ronel Estanislao, while Kevin Tim Ang downed James Roman, 15-5, 15-8, to advance against Adrian Pagsanjan, who beat Bryan Bermudes, 15-2, 15-5.

In the boys' 16-under, Dave Moldogo rallied past Andrew Romualdez, 15-12, 7-15, 15-8 and Jobett Co survived Stanley Macaspac, 13-15, 15-7, 15-12, to join Renz Gesmundo, Kevin Tim Ang, Ericden Dionisio, Gabriel Villanueva and Kevin Dalisay in the quarterfinals of this event sponsored by adidas, Carlton, Wilson, RSL, Prince, Gosen, KFC, SM Shoemart, 103.5 K-lite, Taraflex and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Also booking quarterfinal slots were Maiqui Laurel, R. Pollante, Annalyn Cerrere, Samantha Huang, Jertie Kagalingan, Karen Navea, Jean Pearl Go and Jemelee Vicencio (girls' 16-under singles).



NIGERIAN Oloji Fasuba and Atorisido Tamunosiki, left, embrace in jubilation after winning gold and silver respectively in the men's 100 meters finals at the Afro-Asian Games in Hyderabad, India, Thursday. AP

MMBL caging attracts 64 squads

THE COUNTRY'S biggest high school basketball tournament—the four-division Metro Manila Basketball League (MMBL)—unwraps its 21st season on Nov. 8 and 9 with six games slated at the Brent International School Manila's air-conditioned south campus gyms.

The opening games pit defending Division I champion San Beda against La Salle Greenhills B, Adamson University A against Letran College B, Division II titlist San Beda B against Chiang Kai Shek College, Faith Academy against O.B. Montessori-Las Piñas, St. Francis Assisi College System (SFACS-Cavite) against Lourdes School Mandaluyong and Xavier School B against Letran College C.

St. Francis and Xavier topped last year's Division's III and IV, respectively, but SFACS will now campaign in Division II.

A total of 64 teams from 42 high schools in Metro Manila and surrounding areas are vying in the tourney, which will be officiated by Nabro (National Basketball Referees Organization), official arm of Bapi.

The groupings:

Division I-A—LSGH, De La Salle Zobel A, Letran A, PCCR, St. Stephen's High A, UST, UNO and Upis.

Division I-B—Adamson A, Ateneo, Benedictine International School, DLSZ-B, Letran B, LSGH B, San Beda A and Xavier A.

Division II-A—Brent A, DLSZ C, Faith A, Grace Christian, LSM A, OBM-LP, San Beda C, SFACS.

Division II-B—Adamson B, CKSC, DBTI A, ICS, St. John's Academy, ISM A, LSGH C and San Beda B.

Division III-A—Adamson B, Notre Dame, OBMC, Our Lady of Mercy School, Paco, St. Francis School Manila, St. James and Trinity.

Division III-B—Brent B, CSA A, DLS Lipa A, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, ISM B, LSM B, Southridge and Southville.

Division IV-A—Adamson C, Canossa, CSA B, DBTI B, DLS Lipa B, Dominican, St. Benedict and St. Joseph.

Division IV-B—DBTC B, Faith B, ISM C, Letran C, Phil Institute of QC, San Beda D, SSHS B and Xavier B.

Beer na Beer favored anew in CBL finals

BEER na Beer is favored to score its second straight win against Skyflakes in the Corporate Billiards League (CBL) best-of-seven championship series at the Robinson's Galleria today.

Game Two of the event sponsored by Tanduay Rhum with the support of Rommel's Billiards will be telecast over the National Broadcasting Network at 8-9 tonight with hosts Danny Romero and Recah Trinidad.

Beer na Beer, with skipper Marlon Manalo delivering the key shots, showed its serious bid for the crown and the P100,000 top purse as it blanked its rival in the last three racks to claim Game One, 5-2. Manalo will be suppported by Al Ortega and Emil dela Paz.

Skyflakes, with SEA Games veteran Venancio Tanio, Dennis Baay and Fred Danao, will try to bounce back in this event conceptualized by Tanduay advertising manager Larry Li and patterned after the alternating shots, alternating breaks format of the tough Mosconi Cup.

"We will also try our best. *Sa* Game One *kasi, medyo nagkakapaan pa, yun nga lang sa kanila napunta yung* lucky breaks," said Baay, tagged as the Silent Assassin.

BEER na Beer skipper Marlon Manalo is again expected to make the crucial shots in the game against Skyflakes.

Aguilar reaffirms No. 1 moto rank

CALTEX-REVTEX stalwart Glenn Aguilar reaffirmed his status as the country's No. 1 rider by winning three races in another swashbuckling show before a roaring crowd of 50,000 in the 2nd Evaristo "Titong" Singson Memorial Cup Motocross Open recently at the Tamag Hills in Vigan, Ilocos Norte.

Aguilar, who has virtually wrapped up Asia's most prestigious title in the FIM Asian Motocross Championship in Macau recently, won both the first and second heats of the Pro Open with flourish.

Popeye Rubi settled for second and Ernie Leongson was third. Aguilar's teammate Bebet dela Cruz placed fourth while Jing Leongson came in fifth.

"I need to stay sharp in my quest to bring home the FIM title, and the races were really helpful in my campaign," said Aguilar, who is also backed by No Fear, Sidi Boots, Renthal, Oakley and Pro Grip.

Aguilar, nicknamed "The Rocket" due to his speed and daring, also topped the first heat of the Pro 125.

Kenneth "Wonder Boy" San Andres and Eric Mitra underscored Caltex-Revtex's dominance of the motocross circuit by also pulling off stirring victories in this prestigious competition organized by Len Plus Inc, headed by Marilen Nuñez.

San Andres, who was coming off a 2nd place finish in the recent Macau Supercross, dominated the Mini-Class and then placed 2nd in the Beginner's Production, which was topped by Mitra.

Revtex Product Manager Ner Marquez Dormiendo credited his team's brilliant showing to hard work, dedication and the motor oil that they use.

"We are slowly but surely reaping the fruits of our hard work," said Dormiendo. "Of course, it also helps that you have a reliable motor oil, which you can use to be dominant in the circuit."

Aguilar, the Philippines' only six-consecutive National Rider of the Year, currently leads the Asia-Pacific FIM series with 101 points and can formally clinch the Supercross title by just showing up in Guam for the series' final leg next month.

His closest pursuer, Aep Dadang, is a faraway second at 77 points.

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2 THE SPY 10:20MF,12:40,3:00, 5:20,7:40,10:00LMF-11:40END
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE 11:50MF,2:20,4:50, 7:20,9:50LMF-11:45END
3 UPTOWN GIRLS 12:05MF,2:15,4:20, 6:30,9:00LMF-10:40END
6 IDENTITY 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
7 MAPUPULANG LABI 10:30,12:45, 3:00, 5:15,7:30,9:55,11:45
9 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10,1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00,11:45
8 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING 11:00,1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50, 11:30
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4 THE PHONE 11:05MF,12:55,2:45,4:35,6:25,8:15,10:00LMF,11:40END
5 MAPUPULANG LABI 10:30, 12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:45 11:20
6 IDENTITY 11:15,1:20,3:25,5:30,7:35,9:40, 11:10
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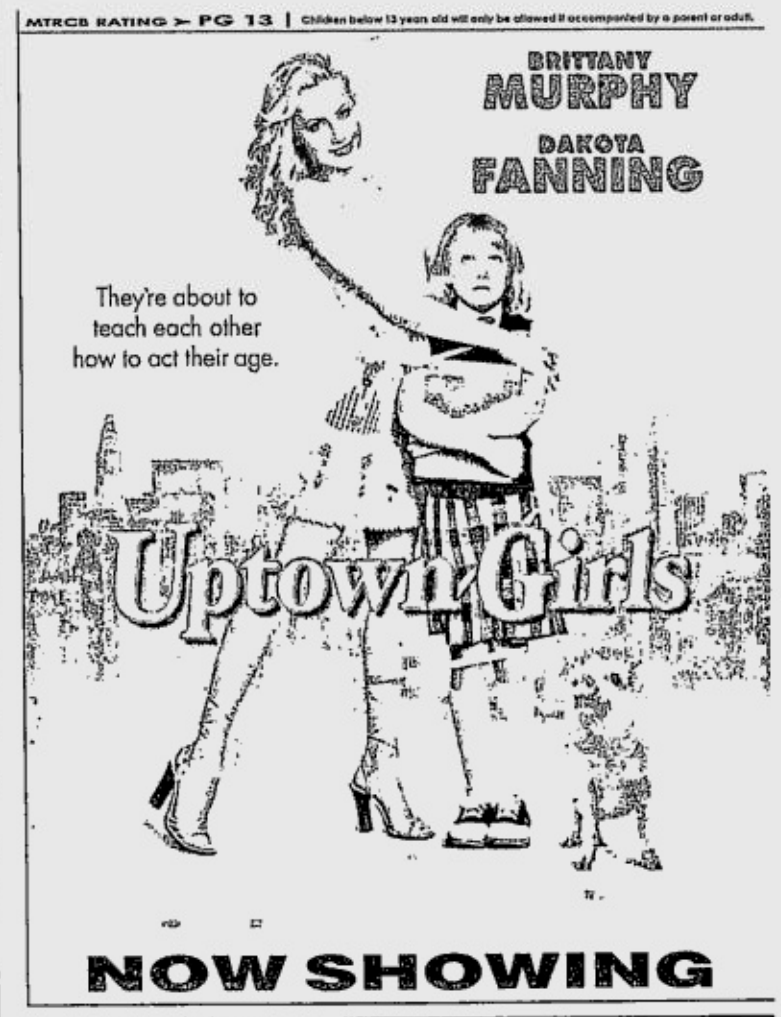

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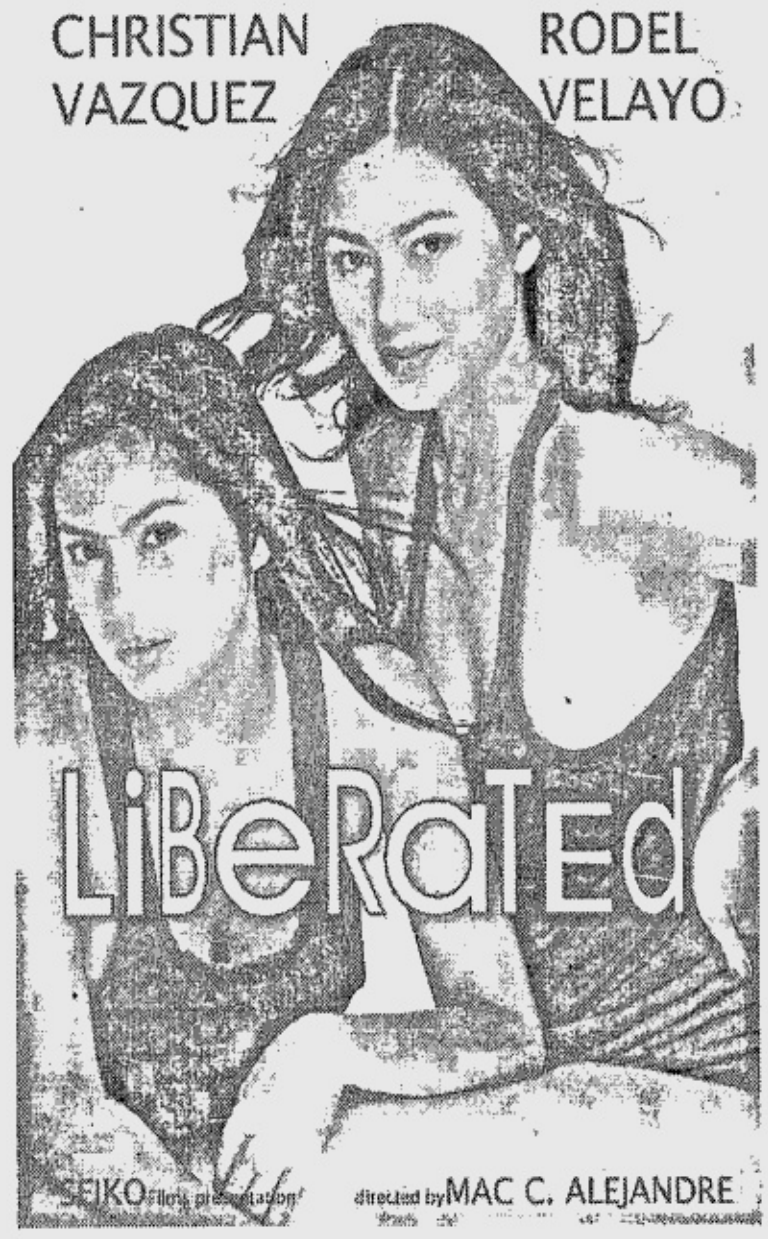

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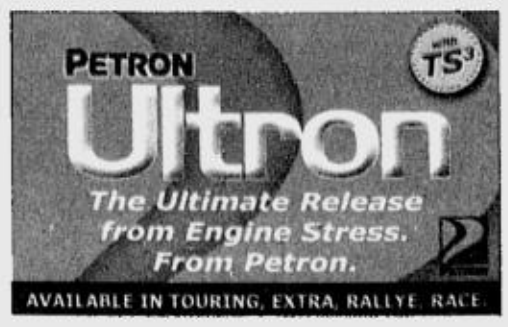

Japanese businessmen bullish on RP

By Michelle V. Remo

JAPANESE firms in the country gave the local business climate a higher satisfaction rating in October, indicating a surprising confidence in the economy despite recent political controversies that were feared to dampen investment mood.

The latest survey conducted by the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) showed the diffusion index for the Japanese businessmen's sentiment on the country and the local business environment rising significantly to 8.2 points in October from the previous month's 0.4 points.

Among the 234 Philippine-based Japanese firms covered by the Jetro survey, 29.1 percent said they were expecting business to be better, 50 percent said it would be the same, and only 20.9 percent believed it would deteriorate.

This translated to an 8.2-point diffusion index, which was the first positive mark the country got from Japanese companies in eight months. The previous positive mark was recorded in February this year at 3.7 points. The diffusion index is determined by subtracting the number of negative outlook from the positive ones.

The positive business sentiment was most evident among Japanese firms in the the oil, chemicals, steel and metals sector, which recorded a diffusion index of 17.1 points. The diffusion index among Japanese firms in the transport and communications sector, meanwhile, was 12.2 points, while the index was at 10.5 percent among Japanese members of the non-manufacturing sector.

The high mark given by Japanese firms to the Philippines in October made it the third most preferred country by the Japanese companies in the Asean region.

Thailand and Malaysia outperformed the Philippines, with indices of 15.4 points and 8.3 points, respectively. Singapore and Indonesia lagged behind with 3.8 points and -6 points, respectively.

The business sentiment survey is conducted by Jetro every month for the use of Japanese companies operating in the Asean and those planning to do business in the region.

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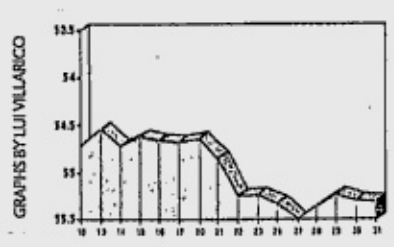
GRAPHS BY LUI VILLARICO



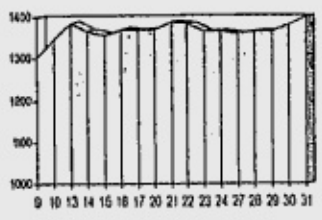
OCTOBER

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end at 18-month high

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER



THE STOCK market closed at an 18-month high yesterday, driven by strong buying in select blue chips led by telecom leader PLDT, in anticipation of strong third-quarter earnings reports.

The main index finished 1.29 percent or 17.83 points up at 1,399.07, its highest level since April 19, 2002. The market has gained 37.38 percent so far this year.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT), the country's biggest telecom company, which is widely expected to announce strong quarterly profits next week, jumped 1.32 percent or P10 to P765.0.

Overnight, PLDT's ADRs traded in New York rose $0.25 to $13.51.

Bank of the Philippine Islands , the country's second-largest bank, rose 2.25 percent to P45.50 on news that its third-quarter net income rose 21 percent year-on-year, beating market expectations.

Value turnover rose to P1.369 billion from Thursday's P495.8 million.

In the broader market, gainers beat losers 45 to 12 and there were 27 stocks unchanged.

After a four-day winning streak, analysts expect the market to remain range-bound as players await earnings announcements and the fate of impeachment moves against Chief Justice Hilario Davide when Congress resumes its session on Nov. 10.

PLDT will announce its third-quarter results on Nov. 4, while the country's second-largest phone company Globe Telecom Inc will release its earnings on Nov. 6.

San Miguel Corp., Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, will announce its quarterly income on Nov. 7, while the Philippines' leading conglomerate Ayala Corp. announces its third-quarter results on Nov. 12.

Reuters

POST PROGRAM MONITORING

RP to defer exit from IMF deal, says BSP chief

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES is not in a hurry to end its post-program monitoring arrangement with the International Monetary Fund especially now when political uncertainties cloud the country's economic prospects, according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

A seal of good housekeeping from an independent multilateral agency may be necessary given the tense political situation, says the BSP chief, who is also the country's negotiator with the IMF.

Buenaventura said the post-loan arrangement with the Fund could be concluded in the first quarter of 2004 following the completion of the exit procedures that required, among others, the reduction of outstanding obligations below 100 percent of the given quota.

The country's outstanding loans with the IMF are scheduled to drop below 100 percent of the quota in November but the central bank chief said the timetable would likely be be pushed back by a month or two.

"I was told that our obligations would not drop below 100 percent of the quota by November. Maybe we can start discussing the post monitoring by February. We are in no hurry to exit the IMF monitoring program given our current situation," said the BSP chief who, however, ruled out entering into a loan program with the IMF.

The BSP chief said political uncertainties have overshadowed the country's economic prospects and have dragged the peso down to new lows last week.

The United States had urged the Philippines to extend its post-program monitoring with the IMF or explore a similar no-loan deal, such as a staff monitoring program. The recommendation came from US Assistant Secretary of State Jim Kelly.

BUENAVENTURA

Some creditors and investors, including multilateral agencies, prefer that emerging economies continue to be monitored by the IMF. The Fund's seal of good housekeeping reduces the perceived risks in the country covered.

But the issue of whether or not to extend the PPM is being evaluated on its merit and not in any way due to the perceived influence of the United States on the Macapagal administration, stressed a government source.

"We may have to extend the PPM for another year or two because we are not out of the woods yet. But I don't see the need to enter into another program," said a top government official.

The option of extending the post-loan arrangement is already being discussed with the IMF.

The PPM requires the IMF to conduct a twice-a-year review of the country's progress, using its prescriptions and the government's fiscal targets as basis in rating the Philippines' performance.

The country ended a three-year, $1.4-billion loan program with the IMF in late 2000 although it was unable to get the last tranche of the loan amounting to $310 million due to the government's failure to contain its budget deficit to P62.5 billion. The budget deficit in 2000 reached P136.1 billion.

MRT III consortium to issue ₱1B in asset-backed securities

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE METRO Rail Transit III consortium is ready to push through with its secondary offering of over $1 billion worth of asset-backed securities to raise fresh funds for expansion and debt refinancing.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, consortium members Anglo Philippine Holdings Corp. and Fil-Estate Corp. said the offering and secondary placement of these asset-based notes or MRT bonds would complete the securitization of the share distributions of the MRT-3 consortium members.

The bonds are backed by the equity rental payments of the Department of Transportation and Communication under the build-lease-transfer agreement with the Metro Railway Transit Corp.

PentaCapital Investment Corp. was appointed the lead underwriter and offer manager for the secondary offering, which was given a rating of PRS Aa by the Philippine Ratings Services Corp.

The PRS Aa is the second highest possible rating under PhilRatings' long-term rating scale, which reflects the group's strong capability to pay off its debts.

Philratings noted that the dividends, or share distributions, would flow through a series of holding companies and special purpose vehicles to MRT III, the asset-backed issuer, for the benefit of the note-holders or investors.

"The MRTC and MRT holding companies, as well as the individual sellers, are not strictly bankruptcy-remote. However, their constitutive documents, as well as the project agreement, financing agreements and issuance documents provide restrictions and covenants that adequately mitigate against the risk of insolvency," it said.

Metrobank records slight rise in profit

By Elena R. Torrijos

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co., the country's largest lender, posted a slight 1.3 percent increase in net profit in the third quarter from P791.28 million to P801.53 million, helped by currency and trading gains.

The bank's third quarter income statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that its net interest income for the period fell to P2.386 billion from P2.44 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The third quarter profit of P801.53 plus the first half profit of P1.56 billion would bring the bank's total profit in the first nine months of this year to P2.36 billion.

This buoyed hopes that Metrobank would hit its full year profit goal of P3 billion.

The bank also said it set aside P233 million in the third quarter to cover for probable losses.

Metrobank, which has one of the largest portfolios of non-performing assets in the industry, has recently raised $200 million from the issuance of tier-two qualifying subordinated notes, with $100 million used to retire part of its outstanding debt.

The bank's loan portfolio grew 2.6 percent in July to September from the previous quarter—the first growth in three quarters, analysts said. The industry's annual loan growth was 3.8 percent in August. *With a report from Reuters*

Cable firms happy with NTC guidelines

By Abigail L. Ho

CABLE operators and program providers have expressed their satisfaction with the guidelines governing cable television and direct-to-home (DTH) television services issued recently by the National Telecommunications Commission.

Memorandum Circular 10-10-2003, which governs cable TV and DTH service providers, contains provisions that protect these firms from arbitrary decisions by foreign program to pull out their programs.

The circular also prohibits exclusive contracts as these generally do not promote free competition.

However, the NTC has made exceptions for cable firms and program providers that can justify why their contracts should be exclusive.

The NTC reasons that some contracts, although exclusive in nature, do not necessarily promote unfair competition.

NTC chief Armi Jane Borje said in an interview Thursday that the regulatory body had been getting good feedback from the industry players since the cable TV guidelines were issued in early October.

"Surprisingly, we are getting good feedback. Everybody saw that the NTC has been fair and has included all the factors (that need to be considered)," Borje said.

S&P assigns favorable rating to Equitable-PCI

SINGAPORE—Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said on Friday it assigned its 'B' long-term and 'B' short-term counter-party credit ratings to Philippines' Equitable PCI Bank (Equitable), and withdrew its 'Bpi' rating.

The outlook is stable. At the same time, Standard & Poor's assigned a 'CCC+' rating to Equitable's $200 million subordinated debt issue due 2013.

The issue rating is based on the issue's subordinate ranking to all senior unsecured debt of Equitable.

Equitable has recovered from the reputation risks it faced in 2000, when it was involved in the presidential impeachment investigations that culminated in major deposit withdrawals by customers, causing the bank to require emergency liquidity assistance from the central bank.

"It has currently strengthened its market franchise as the third-largest commercial bank in the country," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Nancy Koh. *Reuters*

ABS-CBN buying $3M worth of equipment

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. has invested around $3 million (P165 million) to acquire new equipment for its remote coverage, pre-production and post-production work.

The new equipment are mostly digital editing machines linked by centralized servers, that will allow simultaneous editing. This will make internal workflow more efficient.

"It has been our dream for years to use this kind of equipment here since it was introduced in other countries three or four years ago. We are the first network in the country to own this technology," ABS-CBN senior vice-president for integrated engineering group Ruben Jimenez said in a statement yesterday.

The new digital editing equipment can store hundreds of hours' worth of recorded video footage.

The server for news alone, for example, can store 140 hours of recorded video footage that can be used simultaneously. This server is connected to 12 editing workstations, which give simultaneous access to executive producers, directors, video editors, reporters and writers.

ABS-CBN post-production department assistant vice-president Raul Bulaong explained that with the simultaneous access, the workflow becomes non-linear in nature, making the editing process faster and more efficient. *Abigail L. Ho*

Yasay says ASB receiver should assume post

FORMER Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. formally asked the SEC on Wednesday to direct a newly appointed rehabilitation receiver of a big real estate firm to start working immediately.

In a letter sent to SEC Chair Lilia Bautista, Yasay said the Court of Appeals' order enjoining the dismissal of Fortunato B. Cruz as receiver of ASB Holdings had jeopardized and indefinitely suspended the rehabilitation of the distressed company.

In the same letter, dated Oct. 29, 2003, Yasay also cited the SEC for its "relentless effort in weeding out undeserving receivers of financially distressed companies under rehabilitation who compromise their fiduciary duties and responsibilities in order to promote their personal interests."

Cruz was sacked by the SEC on May 26 for alleged "serious breach of his fiduciary duties to protect the larger interest of the creditors, the distressed company and the public at large."

However, Yasay said the CA later issued, albeit belatedly, a TRO and subsequent preliminary injunction seeking to stop the dismissal of Cruz as ASB receiver.

The former SEC chief also noted that ASB creditors had complained that Cruz has been foot-dragging on the rehabilitation of the company, which was approved by the SEC as early as April 26, 2001.

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AND TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION RECORDS AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE VALIDATION OF REGISTRATION RECORDS

x----------x

Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.
Commissioner Luzviminda G. Tancangco
Commissioner Rufino S. B. Javier
Commissioner Ralph C. Lantion
Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain
Commissioner Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.
PROMULGATED:
28 October 2003

RESOLUTION NO. 6391

WHEREAS, on 13 August 2003, the Commission promulgated Resolution No. 6294 resetting the applications for registration of voters and transfer of registration records until October 31, 2003;

WHEREAS, the Commission promulgated Resolution No. 6378 on 21 October 2003, suspending the validation of voters in areas where the Data Capturing Machines (DCMs) are deployed effective immediately and to resume on November 2, 2003;

WHEREAS, all Comelec offices will be closed on October 31 (Friday), November 1 (Saturday) and November 2 (Sunday), 2003;

WHEREAS, there is a need to give ample time to qualified Filipino citizens registering for the first time and those applying for transfer of their registration records;

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission **RESOLVED,** as it hereby **RESOLVES,** as follows:

1. To close all Comelec offices on **October 31** (Friday), **November 1** (Saturday) and **November 2** (Sunday), 2003 and to resume office on November 3, 2003;
2. To extend the filing of applications for registration of voters, transfer of registration records, change of name, correction of entries and reactivation of registration **until November 9, 2003**, except in areas where general registration were conducted i.e. ARMM; Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu/Jaen, Nueva Ecija/ and Tangkal, Lanao del Norte;
3. To amend the date of resumption of the validation of voters from November 2, 2003 to **November 3, 2003 until December 12, 2003.** However, in areas where there are still many prospective first-time registrants, the Election Officers shall give priority to these new registrants.

In the meantime, pending the petition to annul the list of voters in Biñan and Calamba City, both in Laguna, registration and validation of voters are also suspended.

Let the Election and Barangay Affairs Department implement this resolution and the Education and Information Department publish the same in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – November 1, 2003)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 31, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.75	156,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	46	45	45.5	623,600
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	1,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	37	36	37	246,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	420,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	26.5	27.5	2,450,700
Philippine National Bank	26.5	26.5	25.5	25.5	313,800
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	1,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	265,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1340	1340	1330	1330	990
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	42,600
Diversified Fin. Network	3	3	3	3	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.73	0.71	0.73	4,450,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	785	790	785	790	110,080
ISM Communications Corp.	0.043	0.044	0.042	0.043	15,900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.84	0.85	0.83	0.84	6,090,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	760	775	755	765	962,390
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	54,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	119,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	20.75	20.5	20.5	569,500
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	3,023,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	1,332,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	560,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	27,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	30.5	29.5	30.5	37,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	826,300
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	57	56	57	145,700
San Miguel Corp. B	62	63	62	62.5	692,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	24,193,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.3	3,169,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	4,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	32,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	5,910,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.155	0.175	0.155	0.175	3,820,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	327,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18	18	18	622,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.09	0.095	600,000
Ionics Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	226,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	25,394,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	4,360,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	180,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	480,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	160,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	25,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	60,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	8,240,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Manila Jockey Club	9	9	9	9	16,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	28.5	29	28.5	28.5	454,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	9,956,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	110,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	140,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	6,930,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	2,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	2,049,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	150,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	8,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.08	1.02	1.08	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	7,311,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.26	1.5	1.26	1.5	135,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.245	4,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	4,190,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.009	65,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	115,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	700,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	4,480,790	115,560,275.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	206,682,870	1,126,431,925.00
PRO	29,754,000	122,671,040.00
Mining	188,425,000	4,340,400.00
OIL	2,000,000	101,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	431,342,660	1,369,104,940.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	446.24	UP 8.04
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,048.85	UP 26.15
PRO	622.83	UP 1.53
Mining	1,759.45	UP 22.22
OIL	1.31	UP 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	839.31	UP 1.42
Composite	1,399.07	UP 17.83

NO. OF ADVANCES: 45; NO. OF DECLINES: 12; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 27; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 2,344

DISCLOSURES

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 114,000 shares at P1.32 per share on Oct. 22 as part of its buy-back program.

***

MANILA Electric Co. clarified that it was in current discussions with two types of lenders in addressing its liability management program. These are current creditors of the company and prospective new lenders.

***

WILLIAM Mosquito resigned as vice president for comptrollership of **Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc.** effective Oct. 31.

***

THE ANNUAL stockholder's meeting of **MRC Allied Industries Inc.** held on Oct. 30 was adjourned due to lack of quorum.

***

AJO.Net Holdings Inc. shall hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 4, 3 p.m., at the Metropolitan Club Inc., Makati City. The record date is Oct. 20.

***

THE BOARD of **Kim Eng Corp.** approved a proposed capital restructure consisting of the application of an equivalent amount of its additional paid-in-capital to be offset against the accumulated deficit of P170,401,517 to bring down the balance to zero effective Dec. 31, 2002.

***

ELECTED Officers of **Prime Gaming Philippines Inc.** were Alfred Ramos, chair; Ng Foo Leong, president; Low Siaw Peng, treasurer and Jose Bernas, corporate secretary. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

INTEREST RATES

October 31, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 31-Oct-03	MART1 30-Oct-03
1 Month	6.3857	6.3833
3 Months	6.45	6.4411
6 Months	7.4768	7.4768
1 Year	8.2643	8.265
2 Years	8.9604	8.9654
3 Years	9.7018	9.6875
4 Years	10.1554	10.1661
5 Years	10.4482	10.4518
7 Years	11.0732	11.0464
10 Years	11.2696	11.1732
20 Years	11.7125	11.6875
25 Years	12.1107	12.1036

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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The Widest Reaching Classifieds

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ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

THAI Msge Lic 0919-4743278

REFLEXOLOGY

BLUE PALM LIC. • 713-6553

CHRIS 09208271558

Edward 7289285 09195367404

FEELS GOOD 4127758

MALE SPA 7314018

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LIGHT 5301315

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

IDEAL MAIDS YAYA 732-6750

BEST MAIDS 772-4213

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Good-Maid-Yaya-Cook 853-3504

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w/ NBI&BI 4213253 / 4213874

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS
W/ NBI & BI 421-3828

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

CLOSED ALUM VAN 8240568

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

•P500Trp 4153808/7001529

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PASIG

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PROJ.6 BNEW 9263307

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

RFO Condo 2-4br 1.9 - 4M 10% DP 2 Mov-In; 13T/mo. Near Makati 0916-2086569

RUSH SALE MAKATI CONDO 2.4M neg 9114705 ; 9114649

MANILA

3.6M nr La Salle 09208309744

930T nr UST 0920-8309744

Robinson's Res 2br condo 84m² 09209001778/09189334586

MANDALUYONG

RUSH SALE 3BR 2TB twnhse type w/garage P2.750M neg 0917-4143703 private subd.

PASIG

Alexandra 3BR 182-250m² Astoria 1BR-P3M 2BR-P5M Renaissance 1BR 2BR 3BR 9417081/09175413445

QUEZON CITY

GARDEN ISLAND New Manila P3.4M TERMS 2BR 7001393

SAN JUAN

One Beverly Place
Greenhills 3BR Condo 170m²
0920-9001778/0918-9334586

LOT

ALABANG

2Lots AAV 19T/sqm 807-1644

CONDO/TWNHSE

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RIZAL

FOREST HILLS 523m² Rush 9417081 / 09175413445

CAVITE

Dasmarinas Cavite 5.2H P25/m²Gov. Drive 7001393

MEMORIAL LOT

Manila Mem. Park 531-0192

MLA. NORTH CEMETERY 2513527

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Rush Piggery w/ECC 9522109

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

ALABANG

Ayalabang 40T/mo 8423965

MARIKINA

2BR 1CR SSS VILL 9427543

QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB w/ garage Cubao 9123253 / 09192909271

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR furn soSTR 8447524

MANILA

STANFORD TOWER
3BR Overlook Mla Bay
Jomac 925-9954

PASAY

Pasay Park Ave Mansions 2BR /2TB Nr Taft Edsa Roxas 2 AC Units & Cabinets 8509157

APARTMENT

PASIG

KAPITOLYO
2BR 2TB P12TH • 631-4676

QUEZON CITY

2BR nr PSBA/NCBA Aurora mkt 3Calderon St Marilag Vill Proj4

Brnd new studio type Proj 2 4342604 / 0919-2876641/29

Roxas Dist 2sty 4.5T 3714619/18

Up/down Project 4 4370294

ROOM & BOARD

P150 / 12hrs P'QUE 827-5345

Prj3 new 3.5T stype 9137513

W/AIRCON, TB MKT 8992148

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE T8181696/7586

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Wanis 2 go swimming 531-0192

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

SALRY BUSN OFW 524-3197

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Table Space nr UST 7351167

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL

Factory Whse 1K-6Ksqm Ugong, Valenzuela w/3ph. cooling& water twr. 09209001778/09189334586

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

RUSH SALE HYUNDAI VAN 12 seater P120T 4228061

NISSAN

98 CEFIRO Fully Loaded Automatic 64Kms P444T (0917)2401393/634-4517

98 PATHFINDER PICK-UP 4x4 A-1 all pwr wht 6478194 389T

TOYOTA

'91L-Ace fresh 175T 4752630

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453

CHIPEST IN TOWN
Starex MB100 Coaster
Bus Hi-Ace • 637-7396

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

A*TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/REVO 8006595

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

MB HIACE URVAN 8276505

P1T '99STAREX 7318549

REVO w/driver 9272821

Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567605

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732681-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ARTWORK

Joya Acrylic Abstract
1985 90cm X 150cm 628-0170

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLANS
7800106• 09177939632

PETS

GERM SHEP PUPS ChampLn
0917-8994806/0917-8372007

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CEZAR LIMJOCO was extrajudicially settled to the heirs, per doc 380; Page 76, Book CIXII Series of 2003 before Notary Public Wilfredo Q. Ablog of Sn Fdo Pamp.
(PDI-Oct. 18,25 & Nov. 1, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REYNALDO AVILES & CARIDAD AVILES was settled by his heirs through an extrajudicial partition w/ waiver of rights as per Doc 327, Page 66, Bk LXVIII, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Primitivo C. Cruz of Taguig M. Mla.(PDI Nov. 1, 8, & 15, 2003)

SALE W/ ASSUMPTION OF MORTGAGE OF PARCEL OF LAND WITH IMPROVEMENT AT SORO-SORO, BINAN, LAGUNA CONTA5NING 180SQ METERS UNDER TCT NO. T-83677, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, CALAMBA, LAGUNA, EXECUTED BY DOMINADOR U. VILORIA, MARRIED TO ESTRELLITA B. VILORIA, IN FAVOR OF FLORANTE P. JOMOC, MARRIED TO CONCEPCION M. JOMOC, DOC. NO. 48; PAGE NO. 11; BOOK NO. V; SERIES OF 1982 NOTARIAL REGISTER OF FRANCISCO JOSE, JR NOTARY PUBLIC MAKATI. MORTGAGE SETTLED/PAID. INQUIRIES CONTACT ROSET ARANDIA 049-5625920 SSS SAN PABLO CITY
PDI-Oct. 25, Nov. 1 & 8, 2003

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE
Air Force Logistics and Support Command
Headquarters 420th Supply Wing
Clark Air Base, Air Force City
Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

The PAF Disposal Committee will receive sealed bids until 25 November 2003, 10:00 PM at Conference Room, 420th Supply Wing, PAF Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on "As Is Where is" basis.

Lot Number/Description	Location	Min. Bid Price
3-283-022 Ten (10) T-28 Engines with Canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P450,000.00
5-283-023 (8) T-28 Engines w/o Canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	320,000.00
Lot II-D Assorted Aircraft Parts	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	12,000.00
Lot III-D Assorted Aircraft Parts	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	16,000.00
02-190-07 One (1) Airplane Utility N228 with Tail Nr B-20	220th Airlift Wing, Benito Ebuen Air Base, Mactan	12,000.00

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to (10%) of the bid price.
4. To be on time. No bid will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Pre-bid conference and issuance of Bid Forms (P200.00 per set) will be on 18 November 2003, 2:00 PM at 420th SW Conference Room, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga.
6. Inspection schedule will be from 03-14 November 2003, from 0800H to 1600H, Monday to Friday.

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PAF.

For details and schedule of inspection call Cpt Roberto M. Pascua PAF at (045) 599-2015 loc. 6524 or mobile 09197774040.

(Sgd.) RUBEN C ESTEPA
Colonel, PAF (JSC)
Chairman PAF Disposal Committee

(PDI-Nov. 1, 2 & 3, 2003)

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER and REBAP have joined hands to come out with a special supplement quarterly.

Titled as, "Real Estate Quarterly" is a special pull-out supplement of the Philippine Daily Inquirer that features upcoming and ongoing real estate developments, trends, tips to buyers and sellers and other related real estate businesses . It also brings about an advisory to the general public through its advertorials. REBAP, an organization of real estate professionals, takes charge in writing about its unbiased project evaluation.

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Maiden issue release: NOVEMBER 14, 2003

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Canadian Embassy Manila — Ambassade du Canada Manille

L'Ambassade du Canada à Manille,
suite à son déménagement à une nouvelle chancellerie,
annonce son changement d'adresse et de numéro de téléphone.
Ceux-ci seront en vigueur dès le 4 novembre.
L'Ambassade ne sera fermée que le vendredi 31 octobre et le lundi 3 novembre.

L'AMBASSADE DU CANADA À MANILLE EST SITUÉE AU:

Niveau 6, 7, et 8, Tour 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Avenue Ayala
Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168

Le public peut maintenant rejoindre l'ambassade en utilisant ces nouveaux numéros:
Tél: 857-90-01
Fax: 843-10-82
Pour les demandes de visa et les affaires concernant l'immïgration
S.V.P. contactez le centre d'appel:
1-909-1018888 (PLDT)
1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
1-900-1018888 (GLOBE)
(Les frais d'appel sont de Php18.00 par minute.)

Pour de plus amples informations, consultez notre site web:
www.manila.gc.ca

Pour des questions spécifiques, vous pouvez rejoindre:

Section	Telephone	Fax
Immigration et Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
Gestion/Consulaire	857-90-01	843-10-82
le Service des Délégués Commerciaux du Canada	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Relations Politiques et Economiques/Affaires Publiques	857-90-13	843-10-78

Canadian Embassy Manila — Ambassade du Canada Manille

The Canadian Embassy, Manila
announces its change of address and contact numbers
due to its move to its new chancery effective
04 November 2003.
The Embassy will ***only*** be closed on
Friday, October 31 and Monday, November 3.

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, MANILA IS LOCATED AT

Level 6, 7, and 8, Tower 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168

The public may contact the Embassy through
the new trunklines:
Tel: 857-90-01
Fax: 843-10-82

For visa application and immigration matters,
please contact the Call Centre:
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1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
1-900-1018888 (GLOBE)
(Call charges at Php18.00 per minute)

Comprehensive information on visa applications
may be obtained from our website: www.manila.gc.ca

For specific concerns, you may reach the following sections:

Section	Telephone	Fax
Immigration and Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
Management and Consular	857-90-01	843-10-82
Trade Commissioner Service	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Political, Economic Relations, and Public Affairs	857-90-13	843-10-78

Canadian Embassy Manila — Ambassade du Canada Manille

Ang Pasuguan ng Canada sa Maynila
ay ibinabalita ang pagpapalit ng tanggapan at telepono
simula ika-apat ng Nobyembre 2003.
Ang Pasuguan ay sarado lamang sa Biyernes, ika-31 ng
Oktubre at Lunes, ika 3 ng Nobyembre.

Ang Pasuguan ng Canada sa MAYNILA ay nasa

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Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168

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Fax: 843-10-82

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(Php18.00 ang halaga ng tawag kada minuto)

Ang pangkalahatang kaalaman ukol sa aplikasyon sa bisa
ay maaaring makuha mula sa aming website:
www.manila.gc.ca

Para sa partikular na serbisyo, maaring tawagan ang mga
sumunundo na tanggapan:

Seksyon	Telepono	Fax
Immigration and Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
Management and Consular	857-90-01	843-10-82
Trade Commissioner Service	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Political, Economic Relations, and Public Affairs	857-90-13	843-10-78

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
Telefax: 633-93-42
Direct Line: 631-96-49
Trunk Line: 633-13-61 locals 2003/2221

Tanggapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Science Teaching and Instrumentation Center (NSTIC) is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following batches:

Batch	Description	Approved Budget
A	Manufacturing and Door-to-Door Delivery of 550 sets of Basic Science Equipment and Supply of 550 sets of Glassware as Component of Basic Science Equipment to Division Offices	P 16,269,000.00
B	Manufacturing and Door-to-Door Delivery to Division Offices of 520 sets of Physics-Mechanics Science Equipment	P 20,659,600.00

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting November 3 - 14, 2003 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg. DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 14, 2003**, 2:00 PM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **November 28, 2003**, 10:00 AM at the place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI--Nov. 1 & 8, 2003)

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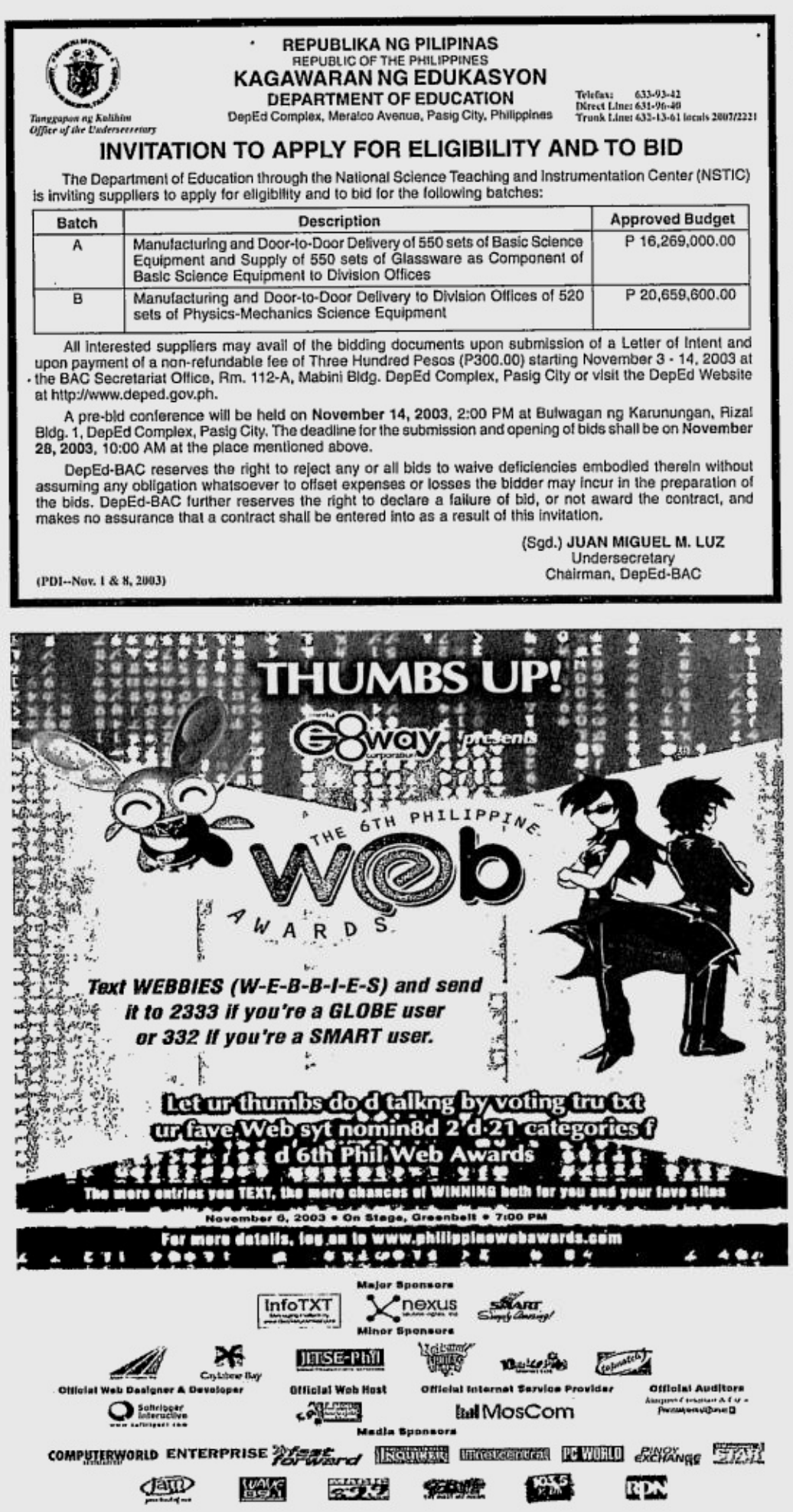

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

Invitation for Bids

Date: October 20, 2003
ICB No.: SEMP2-02-2003-TX
Invitation for Bids No.: 2003-02-TX

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), toward the cost of the Second Social Expenditure Management Project (SEMP 2), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for Procurement of Printing only and Delivery of Textbooks (TXs) and Teacher's Manuals (TMs).
2. The Department of Education (DepED) now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the printing only from camera-ready-copy and delivery of the following:

   1,084,468 copies of Textbooks and 30,282 copies of Teacher's Manuals for high school Science and Technology IV
   [Textbook = 456 pages; Teacher's manual = 272 pages]
   (Reprinting of Science textbooks and teacher's manuals developed by the National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development [NISMED] with copyright owned by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to be delivered to public high schools in the Philippines.)

   Estimated Printing and Delivery Completion Period: 150 days. Indicative Printing and Delivery Dates: January to June, 2004.
3. A margin of preference shall be granted to TXs and TMs manufactured in Purchaser's country for purposes of bid price comparison only.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from DepED and inspect the bidding documents at Room 112-A, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, Philippines, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting October 29, 2003. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon submission of a written application to the address given on the next page and payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php3,000 or US$55.00. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, manager's check or certified check. The Bidding Documents will be sent by mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on November 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address indicated below, at or before 10:00 a.m. on December 15, 2003. A bid security shall be required equivalent to not less than 2.5% of the bid price, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency or eligible countries. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address, date and time indicated in the Bidding Documents.

   1. **Address for inspecting Bidding Documents**
      Name of Office: Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
      Street Address: Meralco Avenue
      Floor/Room number: Ground Floor, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex
      City: Pasig City
      Postal Code: 1604
      Country: Philippines
      Telephone number: (632) 636-6542; (632) 633-9342
      Facsimile number: (632) 635-3762
   2. **Address for submitting written application to request for Bidding Documents**
      Name of Office: Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
      Street Address: Meralco Avenue
      Floor/Room number: Ground Floor, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex
      City: Pasig City
      Postal Code: 1604
      Country: Philippines
      Telephone number: (632) 636-6542; (632) 633-9342
      Facsimile number: (632) 635-3762
   3. **Address for submitting and opening of bids**
      Name of Office: Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
      Street Address: Meralco Avenue
      Floor/Room number: Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex
      City: Pasig City
      Postal Code: 1604
      Country: Philippines
      Telephone number: (632) 636-6542; (632) 633-9342
      Facsimile number: (632) 635-3762

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 2003)

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"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works to follow them."
Revelation 14:13

In Loving Memory of Daddy

Col. Ricardo P. Santiago (Ret.)

Who passed away in the Grace of the Lord at the age of 73.

He is survived by his loving wife **Rosie "Nene"**; children and children-in-law, **Irene** and **Edmond**, **Bel** and **Siok**, **Bembol** and **Gina**, **Chito**, and **Shalaine**; grandchildren **Dennis Ian**, **Duane**, **Miko**, **Hesedel** and **Micah**, **Dominique** and **Reggie**, **Jicel**; relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati on November 6, 2003 at 12:00 noon.

JOSE "Pepe" LORETO DIZON, SR.

of Balanga, Bataan and Kaloocan City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord Jesus on October 29, 2003 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Bernardina T. Dizon**; children **Carlito** & **Sheila**, **Josie**, **Boyet** & **Baby**, **Aan** & **Cedric**, **Junior**, **Soyin** & **Alan**, **Dedette** & **Mich**; brothers & sisters **Fredo**, **Dida**, **Oying**, **Badong**, **Nor**, **Lita** and grandchildren **Kris**, **Jasmin**, **Paulo**, **Tin-Tin**, **Rian**, **Nika** & **Arwen** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel F (North Wing), La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on November 3, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

DRA. CARMEN ENVERGA SANTOS

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on October 31, 2003 at the age of 81.

Her bereaved family:
Husband : **Dr. Florentino N. Santos**
Children
Boy, Arben, Vucks, Lea, Rene, Andrew
Susanne, Celda, John (†), Baba, Socorro(†)
Grandchildren
Marco, Carmen, Guia, Joey, Tara, Katrina, Francis, Franco, JB, Nikki, Paolo, Jem, Jonathan, James, Patrick, Miguel, Karla, AJ
Great Grandchildren:
Tamika, Nicolo, Joshua, Johann, Jacob
Sisters-in-law:
Asuncion (†), Ursula (†)
and
Ana

Other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the **Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City**

Cremation will be on **Monday, November 3, 2003** after the 9:00 AM Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Rotary Club of Manila – Leukemia Foundation will be highly appreciated.

JOSEPHINE P. DELOS REYES

October 30, 2003

Her Family
Husband **Kati**
Children and Grandchildren
Bobbit and **Winston**
Katherine and **Jonny**
Gigi and **Jolly**
Jamie and **Jo'Anne**
Bimbo and **Darlene**
Alex
Rex and **Grace**
Katrice, **Ryan** and **Regg**

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Church, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff

of the

SOUTHWEST MARITIME GROUP OF COMPANIES

deeply condole with its President and CEO, Arben E. Santos and the other members of the family of

DRA. CARMEN ENVERGA SANTOS

who peacefully joined her Creator on October 31, 2003 at the age of 81.

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Monday, November 3, 2003 after the 9:00 AM Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Rotary Club of Manila-Leukemia Foundation will be welcomed.

FLORDELIZA VILLAREAL vda. de TABLANTE

Peacefully joined her Creator on Thursday, 30th of October 2003 at the age of 84.

Her beloved husband **ALEJANDRO Q. TABLANTE, Sr.** (†); children **ALFRED & MYRNA, ALEJANDRO "Jr."** (†) and **BABY, DAISY, LUCIO & EDITH SANTOS** (†), **ROBERT & SIONNE GALLEGOS, RENE & BABY (FLOR) FIGUEROA** and all her grandchildren, great grandchildren, brother **GODOFREDO** (†) and sister **NITA** married to **AURELIO VILLANUEVA** and nephews, nieces and relatives, request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will take place on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 at the Family Mausoleum in Holy Cross Memorial Park following the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapel.

"For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life." John 3:16

Bank of Commerce

Officers & Staff

extend their sincerest condolences to the family of

CHARLES L. GO

Director

who peacefully joined his Creator
October 29, 2003

His body lies in state at the
Arlington Memorial Chapel, G. Araneta, Quezon City
Interment will be on November 5, 2003.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MEGAMALL
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In loving memory
of our beloved

Satramdas V. Sadhwani

January 1, 1912 – November 1, 2002

On the occasion of our beloved Dada's first death anniversary, we would like to request all those whose lives he has touched to take a moment to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and to remember fond and cherished memories of him.

We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all who condoled with us in the hour of our bereavement. For all that you have done to console our hearts, we are truly grateful.

Kishni S. Sadhwani, Gul and **Sundri Sujanani,**
Ram and **Kamla Sadhwani, Pribhu** and **Duru Mirpuri**
Haresh and **Vandana Sadhwani, Gop** and **Avisha Sadhwani**
Rajan and **Apples Sadhwani, Perkash** and **Jyoti Sadhwani**

Our Lady of Peace Officers and Staff: (From left to right: Armin Centeno, Armie Remorento, Zeny Legaspi (Treasurer), Alex Marquez (Managing Director), Ester Marquez-Tapales (Marketing Director), Tess Astudillo

Congratulations!

From: INQUIRER

Happy Anniversary on your 24th year of dedicated service!

Mr. Alex Marquez
Managing Director

Ms. Ester Marquez-Tapales
Marketing Director

Our Lady of Peace

Memorial Park, Chapel and Services, Inc.

No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City
Tel. Nos. 697-0026 / 697-0282 / 650-7426

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave.,
Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128;
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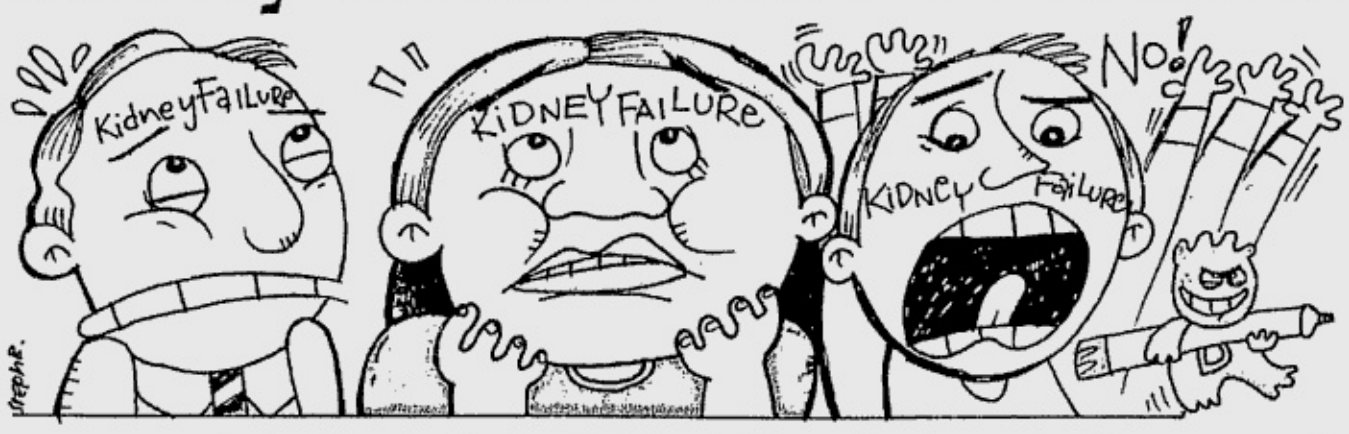
Cases of kidney failure due to diabetes rising

By Charles E. Buban



MEDICAL experts recently warned that there was a "substantial and steady" increase in the incidence of kidney failure due to diabetes mellitus, a disease that afflicts more than 2.7 million Filipinos today.

Reports from the Philippine Society of Nephrology, the Diabetes Center of the Philippines and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute said the number of Filipinos with the most advanced form of kidney disease has risen to 31 percent in 2003 from 26 percent in 2001.

"Unless we succeed in mobilizing more people to help prevent it, our resources will be sorely depleted in combating the disease," warned Dr. Augusto Litonjua, president of Diabetes Center of the Philippines.

Metabolic diseases

Diabetes mellitus is a group of metabolic diseases characterized by high blood sugar (glucose) levels which result from defects in insulin secretion or action, or both.

Such deficiency results in increased concentration of glucose in the blood, which in turn damages many of the body's systems, in particular the blood vessels and nerves.

Diabetes is one of the 21st century's most challenging health problems that will likely continue to increase globally.

"The government and private sector have to work double-time to at least halt the increase in the rate of incidence of diabetes, if not reduce it significantly," Litonjua said during a briefing on diabetes nephropathy and observance of World Diabetes Day.

Common cause

In the Philippines, about 50-55 percent of people with diabetes develop kidney disease.

The PSN said diabetes is the single most common cause of kidney failure, with 31 percent of the 4,409 patients who underwent chemodialysis having diabetes mellitus nephropathy, a primary renal disease.

PSN's Dr. Froilan de Leon explained that over time, diabetes, or more precisely, the high levels of sugar in the blood, damages the millions of tiny filtering units within each kidney.

In the most advanced form of kidney disease, both kidneys lose their ability to remove waste and maintain the level of fluid and salts the body needs.

Prevention still best

The PSN, DCP and NKTI are one in saying that prevention is still the best treatment for kidney disease.

"Although incurable, diabetes is a manageable condition, and patients can control it, avoid complications arising from it, and lead full and meaningful lives," said De Leon.

In observance of World Diabetes Day, PSN, DCP, NKTI and Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines teamed up to focus public attention on the very real threat posed by diabetes.

Under the "Fight Diabetes" advocacy campaign, the group will distribute streamers and posters to local hospitals and other health establishments and organize symposiums, forums and other initiatives designed to raise awareness and encourage patients, care givers and the public to be more heedful of the symptoms and causes of diabetes and of the ways to manage it.

"Nothing less than a long-term investment of attention, care and resources and common sense on the part of the patients, our medical community, the government and the public will produce meaningful results in our campaign to combat diabetes," said Litonjua.

"If we have the will to put in these investments, we will succeed, even if gradually. If not, the future generation stands to suffer a lot," he added.

Coughing like mad with bronchitis

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

SOMETIME last year, we wrote a series of articles on how air pollution was slowly killing us. The Clean Air Act has apparently not caused any significant improvement in the quality of the air in Metro Manila.

Stand anywhere on Edsa for a few minutes and you get to inhale toxic particles enough to irritate your respiratory tract. Do this regularly and you weaken your immune system. The next thing you know, you're down with all sorts of infection, especially respiratory tract infections such as acute bronchitis.

If this is repeated several times, lasting for three months in a year for two consecutive years, your condition has progressed to chronic bronchitis.

A person who suffers from acute bronchitis attacks repeatedly and is smoking heavily or is inhaling contaminated air for prolonged periods may develop chronic bronchitis.

There may be occasions when you're coughing like mad, making it impossible to sleep at night.

In chronic bronchitis, the damage to the lungs is already irreversible, making the patient prone to infections whether viral, bacterial or atypical. This is called chronic bronchitis with acute exacerbation, a debilitating condition that causes patients to be in and out of the hospital.

If the situation and risk factors remain uncontrolled, a person is likely to develop chronic obstructive lung disease, or COPD.

Symptoms

What happens when one has bronchitis?

When the cells of the bronchial-lining tissues are irritated beyond a certain point, the tiny hairs (cilia) within them that normally trap and eliminate pollutants stop functioning. The air passages become clogged by debris and irritation

increases. In response, a heavy secretion of mucus develops, causing the characteristic cough of bronchitis which may be initially dry and later become productive of whitish to yellowish phlegm.

There may be accompanying low grade fever, malaise and shortness of breath. Upon physical examination by a doctor, there may be rhonchi (*halak*), occasional wheezing or coarse crackles. In acute bronchitis the signs and symptoms last less than two weeks.

If the cough persists for more than two weeks, especially if accompanied by a fever and a greenish or yellowish phlegm, the person may need additional treatment than just an over-the-counter antitussive.

People have a tendency to take antibiotics the moment they have bronchitis, but this may be doing more harm than good. It will only make people develop tolerance to the antibiotic.

Taking antibiotics may not even be necessary because in 90 percent of cases, the cause of acute bronchitis is viral. Antibiotics don't work for viral infections.

Transmission

The viruses that cause acute bronchitis are sprayed into the air or onto people's hands when they cough. One can get this disease if he breathes in these viruses.

Smokers and those inhaling toxic fumes (such as workers in certain factories or in thoroughfares which are severely polluted) are more likely to get sick and longer since their bronchial trees are already damaged.

Most cases of acute bronchitis will go away on their own after a few days or a week. Management is usually supportive, like cough suppressant for dry cough, mucolytic or expectorant for productive cough, and paracetamol for fever.

It also helps a lot if one increases intake of fluids and fruit juices and takes a rest for a while.

For people with acute bronchitis who have difficulty breathing, doctors prescribe medicines usually used to treat asthma. These medicines can help open the bronchial tubes and clear out mucus. They may be given an inhaler which would spray the medicine right into the bronchial tree.

If the cough does not improve in two weeks, or if symptoms get worse, or the fever becomes high grade, the doctor may prescribe antimicrobials to cover for possible bacterial or atypical infection.

A cough that doesn't go away may be a sign of another problem like asthma. If one smokes, then he should stop smoking to allow the bronchial tree to heal faster.

How does one prevent bronchitis?

If a person smokes, the best defense against acute bronchitis is to quit. Smoking damages the bronchial tree and makes it easier for viruses to cause infection.

Another way to prevent acute bronchitis is proper hand washing, breathing fresh air and practicing a healthy lifestyle.

Latest price cut benefits patients who want to lower cholesterol

MERCK Sharp and Dohme (MSD) announces a price rollback for its prescription drug, simvastatin. All dosage strengths for MSD's simvastatin are expected to be sold at a uniform price in leading drugstores although prices may vary for some drugstores.

Filipinos using statins to lower their cholesterol are expected to benefit from this latest price cut. This translates to savings of at least 37 percent and at most 57 percent—making MSD's simvastatin more affordable in the market and more accessible to the public.

Making medicine affordable

MSD's price rollback is in support of the government's campaign to make the cost of medication affordable to more Filipinos and of the increasing demand for cholesterol-lowering medication. MSD is also guided by the philosophy of its founder, George W. Merck, that medicines must reach the people who need them most.

MSD was the first pharmaceutical company to introduce statins in the country with the launch of its simvastatin in 1992. The simvastatin of MSD, the only US FDA-approved simvastatin, has been in the global market for over 15 years and has been prescribed to more than 40 million patients.

Treatment, preventive drug

Cholesterol-lowering drugs known as statins may no longer be viewed only as a treatment drug, but also as a preventive drug. In the Heart Protection Study done in the United Kingdom, it was proven that about one-third of all heart attacks and strokes could be avoided in people at risk of heart disease when cholesterol-modifying drug was used to lower the blood cholesterol levels (regardless of the person's age, sex, or cholesterol level).

With this landmark finding, more people, including the elderly, diabetics, hypertensives, women, those with stroke or peripheral vascular disease, and even those with "normal" cholesterol levels, can now be expected to benefit from this medication.

Simvastatin is a prescription drug. To know more about hypercholesterolemia or elevated cholesterol, patients should consult their physician for proper diagnosis and treatment. MSD operates a customer service call center at 878-6338 or (toll-free) 1-800-1-888-6737.

Low-dose aspirin, dipyridamole cited for post-stroke patients

META-ANALYSIS of nearly 340,000 post-stroke patients shows the superior safety of dipyridamole plus aspirin therapy.

Results of the analysis presented at the recent American Heart Association's annual meeting, showed that the therapy was associated with the lowest bleeding risk compared with conventional dose and platelet therapies.

Bleeding risks

The meta-analysis included data from 50 clinical trials published from 1988 to 2002, with a total of 338,191 patients, to determine bleeding risks associated with antiplatelet agents.

"Bleeding risk from inhibiting platelets may significantly worsen the patient's condition. In post-stroke patients, this is of particular concern because additional bleeding into the brain could have fatal consequences," said Victor L. Serebruany, MD, Ph.D., director of Sinai Thrombosis Center and assistant professor of medicine at John Hopkins University, Baltimore. He is lead researcher of this study.

"Although significant advancements in antiplatelet therapy have been made over the years, improving the life-saving clinical benefits in patients with vascular disease," he said, "however, more aggressive therapy can also be associated with an increased risk of bleeding, which is a major concern among physicians."

Bleeding rates associated with each antiplatelet agent were categorized by Serebruany with Doctors Alex Malinin and David Sane of John Hopkins University and Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center according to minor bleeds, major bleeds, gastrointestinal (GI) bleeds and hemorrhagic stroke.

In this analysis, low-dose asperin and dipyridamole therapy was associated with the lowest bleeding risk. No minor, GI or stroke bleeds were reported with dipyridamole therapy and major bleeds were reported in 1.0 percent of patients.

Minor bleeding rates

In contrast, high rates of minor bleeding were reported with conventional dose at 6.5 percent; thienopryridines, 5.1 percent; GP IIb/IIa inhibitors-IV, 6.5 percent; and GP IIb/IIIa inhibitors-oral, 19.8 percent. Higher rates of GI bleeds were also reported with these agents.

"This meta-analysis clearly shows the benefit of low-dose ASA in decreasing the risk of bleeding complications," said Dr. Andreas Barner, member of the Boehringer Ingelheim board of managing directors. "That's a positive move toward patients' safety in preventing secondary stroke."

Efficacy

In the European Stroke Prevention Study-2, the largest recurrent stroke prevention trial ever conducted, the combination of extended release dipyridamole and aspirin was twice as effective for secondary stroke prevention as either aspirin or dipyridamole alone.

The study examined the efficacy of aspirin/extended-release dipyridamole, aspirin alone, dipyridamole alone or placebo on the risk of recurrent stroke in 6,602 patients.

Results from the study demonstrate that aspirin/extended-release dipyridamole reduces the risk of stroke by 37 percent compared to placebo and by 22 percent compared to aspirin alone.

Healthcare toward people empowerment

ON THE 20TH death anniversary of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., the People Power People Movement was created by former President Corazon Aquino in celebration of her husband's noble life and death.

Marking the launch of the movement are her citations of groups and individuals who, she said, embody the spirit and ideals of Edsa in 1986 where efforts are dedicated in service of the Filipino people.

In Ms Aquino's own words, these are people who follow the "path of sustained service to God and country... working quietly, willingly, neither seeking nor getting publicity but making a real difference in their communities."

She honors the achievements of the different groups in helping answer the different needs of the Filipinos and dubbed them "People Power People of 2003."

Leaders for Health project

One of the organizations cited as a People Power People Awardee is the Leaders for Health project, the biggest social responsibility program of Pfizer Philippines in partnership with the Department of Health and the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

The project was created as a response to the need for quality healthcare, making it accessible to Filipinos, especially those who live in remote provinces.

Many may not realize it, but the problem with the country's healthcare delivery system has gotten so serious that out of about 80 million people, 40 percent of Filipinos, especially those who live in far-flung areas, go through life and die without seeing a doctor.

A corps of leaders

In line with Pfizer's commitment to improving the health and quality of life of the community, this project aims to contribute by developing a corps of competent, professional and committed leaders who are trained to provide effective and strategic leadership of the Philippine healthcare system in various levels.

Volunteer doctors will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills before going into the community to encourage members to be proactive in promoting their own health. In doing so, the project aims to shifting the mindset of people about health from being just the responsibility of a doctor to a community concern as well.

It encourages community members to actively take part in their local government's pursuit of a better healthcare environment for the people.

To achieve this, the Leaders for Health project enables participating local chief executives and community leaders to undergo capacity-enhancement workshops to empower them and their constituents to be part of building a sustainable solution to their local healthcare problem.

Implementation

The program is currently implemented in 20 fifth- and sixth-class municipalities in strategic areas. These are located in Camarines Sur in the island of Luzon, Western Samar and Biliran in the Visayas area and Surigao del Norte in Mindanao.

Since their deployment in their respective areas, the volunteer doctors have been serving 50-80 people a day.

The program has enabled 20 doctors, 20 mayors and 42 community leaders to conduct community diagnosis that will benefit almost 300,000 members of the community. It has instilled in the minds of the people in these communities that they have the power and must get involved to make the healthcare system work in their areas.

Testing tech to help fight drug abuse

MORE accurate, more reliable and cheaper technology for drug testing is now available in the Philippines. And the good news is this technology can be a tool in the government's antidrug campaign being waged by the departments of Health and Education as well as the Dangerous Drugs Board.

Manuel Evidente, general manager of Abbott Diagnostics, announced the availability of the Abbott AxSYM and Abbott TDx, "two drug-testing analyzers that come with a 100 percent accuracy assurance... and can even be used to challenge court cases."

The Abbott AxSYM system is a floor model, high-volume automated immunoanalyzer. Its key features include a broad menu of more than 75 assays/tests for various diseases and medical conditions including hepatitis, HIV, cardiac, cancer, thyroid conditions, pregnancy and drugs of abuse.

The Abbott TDx system is a bench top, automated immunoassay analyzer that is capable of performing a variety of laboratory tests including assays for therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) and drugs of abuse (DOA).

While drug testing is now being charged on the average of P300, the Abbott systems' regular price is P110/test or P220/test for cannabinoid and amphetamine.

The TDx and AxSYM systems are already available in some 80 private and government hospitals and laboratories in Metro Manila and key provincial cities.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Cholera strikes again

THE USUAL VICTIMS. Cholera is one of the top causes of illness and death among children under 5. JESS YUSON

By Charles E. Buban

IT'S A DISEASE associated with destitution and pestilence. Small wonder then that local health officials are doggedly trying to contain the spread of cholera cases in Tondo, Manila.

There are even efforts to downplay the situation, with health officials calling it a "clustering of cases" instead of an outbreak. And because "only" 29 cases have so far been confirmed through laboratory tests as cholera, health officials and local politicians would rather call all the cases gastroenteritis, and sometimes just diarrhea.

So far, the Manila city government has reported 242 cases of diarrhea/gastroenteritis from at least eight streets in Tondo. The Department of Health said 29 are confirmed cholera cases.

Cholera is preventable and treatable, yet it continues to kill. Among the Tondo cases, at least four people have died due to severe dehydration.

Outbreaks in 1800s

According to the World Health Organization, cholera became a disease of global importance in 1817, when major outbreaks occurred in India, spreading through Burma, Ceylon, Dutch East Indies and Siam, to as far as the Philippines in the east.

Between 1817 and 1923, five pandemics followed.

Although cholera has long been known as a condition affecting many children in developing countries, it was not until the 1960s that it became one of the diarrheal diseases identified among the major causes of morbidity and mortality in children under 5 years.

A major cholera outbreak occurred in 1994 when 57,424 cholera cases with 1,233 deaths were officially reported from 13 countries. The figure represented a 30-fold increase in the number of reported cases compared with 1991.

Death in 2 hours

According to a 1992 WHO report, more than 90 percent of cholera infection cases are mild and may be difficult to distinguish from other acute diarrheal diseases.

But when cholera strikes an unprepared community, case fatality rates may be as high as 50 percent, usually because there are no facilities for treatment or because treatment is given too late.

The disease is caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.

Those who contract the severe form of the disease experience profuse watery diarrhea, vomiting and leg cramps. There is rapid loss of body fluids (sunken eyeballs, wrinkled and dry skin) which leads to dehydration and shock.

The DOH warns the public that in extreme cases of infection, a healthy individual may die within two to three hours if no treatment is provided.

Rehydration, the answer

Cholera can be simply and successfully treated by immediate replacement of lost fluid and electrolytes through oral rehydration solution (Oresol), a prepacked mixture of sugar and salts to be mixed with water and taken in large amounts.

A homemade solution of one teaspoon of salt, four teaspoons of sugar and one liter of clean water is a good alternative.

In severe cases, intravenous fluid replacement is required.

With prompt rehydration, less than one percent of cholera patients die.

Contaminated food, water

A person may get cholera by drinking water or eating food contaminated with the cholera bacterium.

Large outbreaks are usually caused by water supply that has been contaminated with the feces of an infected person.

Casual contact with an infected person is not a risk for becoming ill.

When cholera appears in a community, the WHO said it is essential to ensure three things: proper disposal of human feces, an adequate supply of safe drinking water and sanitary food practices.

In places where there is a cholera outbreak, the bottom line is: "Boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it."

- Drink only water that you have boiled for at least three minutes or have treated with chlorine. Ice should be made with clean water.
- Keep food away from insects and rats by covering it.
- Eat only foods that have been thoroughly cooked and are still hot. Eat only fruits that you have peeled yourself.
- Avoid undercooked or raw fish or shellfish.
- Make sure all vegetables are cooked, and as much as possible avoid salads.
- Avoid foods and beverages from street vendors.
- Use the toilet properly and clean the toilet every day.
- Wash your hands with soap after using the toilet and before eating.
- Ensure sanitary disposal of human waste.

Mind over matter: monkey think, monkey do

(Conclusion)

FOR DECADES, researchers have worked on helping the paralyzed regain the use of their nonfunctioning limbs.

In recent years, thanks largely to Christopher Reeve's efforts, media attention has been focused on stem cell research and the hope that it will, among other things, one day be used in humans to regenerate the damaged nerves that act as the middlemen between brain and limb. (Stem cell researchers predicted this week that human clinical trials will be under way in the next five years.)

Last week's look at the work done at Northwestern University, as well as the joint efforts of the University of Southampton and the Alfred Mann Foundation makes it clear that there are other ways of restoring that severed connection.

Controlling one's limbs

Dr. Miguel Nicolelis and his colleagues at Duke University offer a fourth option: using electrodes implanted in people's brains that could let them control mechanical limbs as well as their own.

As reported in the inaugural issue of the widely promoted free-access-to-the-public journal Public Library of Science (http://biology.plosjournals.org), Nicolelis et al. taught two rhesus macaque monkeys named Aurora and Ivy to treat a robotic arm as if it were one of their own limbs by using brain-machine interfaces (BMIs).

Electrodes in brains

Nicolelis et al. began by implanting dozens of electrodes into parts of the monkeys' brains known to control motor functions.

One monkey got 96 electrodes while the other received 312 because the scientists didn't know how many areas of the brain were involved and how many electrodes were needed for the BMI to work.

The monkeys were trained to sit on a chair and hold a pole that acted as a joystick for the computer game they watched on a screen. Both the electrodes in their heads and the joystick were connected to computers that scanned brain and muscle activity, which were reflected in the game itself.

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

Several exercises

In the first part of the game, the monkeys had to move the cursor on the screen toward a circle by moving the joystick.

Next, the researchers trained them to grip the joystick as hard as they could. The force they exerted was reflected as ever-widening concentric circles on the screen.

Then the researchers combined the first two exercises and the monkeys had to move the cursor to the circle and grip the joystick until the pressure circles onscreen were as big as the target circle.

For each exercise that was successfully performed, the monkeys received food treats.

Once the monkeys had all exercises down pat, the researchers raised the stakes. They added a robotic arm into the electronic loop such that the monkeys' electrodes were now connected to a computer that was connected to both the mechanical arm and the screen.

When the monkeys ran through the exercises again, they saw that the mechanical arm acted just like the arm controlling the joystick when they moved the cursor. The gripper at the end contracted like their own paws and the arm extended just like their arms did.

Brilliant flash of insight

It was at some point during this second set of exercises that the monkeys had a brilliant flash of insight: if the robot arm was behaving just like their own arms, then they must be able to control that arm as if it were actually attached to their sides.

Slowly the monkeys stopped moving their arms to control the joystick, eventually keeping their arms at their sides although the cursor was still moving onscreen.

Simply put, the monkeys had acquired a mechanical third arm.

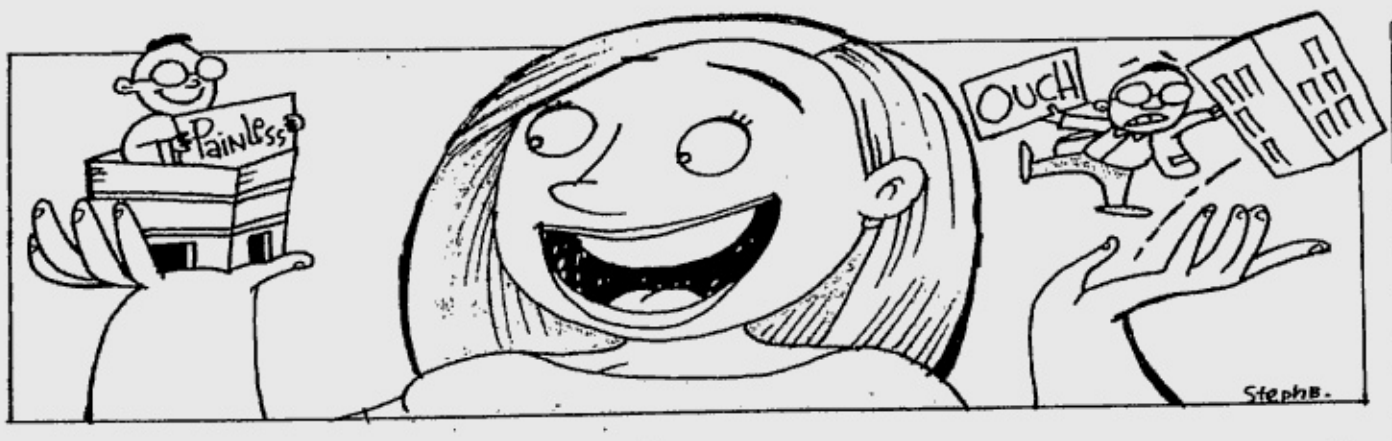
Human trials

So when do we start seeing people using mechanical arms and legs to do everyday activities?

Nicolelis et al. have started human trials, but no details are forthcoming on that project. It's obvious though that for paralyzed people to make BMIs part of their lives, the electronic setup Nicolelis used would have to shrink significantly and their brains would have to get used to the devices and learn to treat them as real, attached limbs.

When we've reached that stage, will people choose metallic limbs or opt for something less obvious, like nerve regeneration through stem cell treatments?

Maybe it's a matter of which alternative becomes available first. Maybe it'll depend on the cost and possible risks involved. And maybe we'll have to wait and see how long it takes Christopher Reeve to walk again before we can answer that question.



Search for 'painless mammogram' could end in this Makati hospital

By Tessa R. Salazar

WOMEN usually dread mammograms. The indescribable pain during this procedure has been listed as one of the main barriers to women getting their necessary breast examinations.

It is also said that women with smaller breasts find the procedure more painful because the breast tissues have to be "stressed" so the machine could properly scan them.

But the pain during mammography could be more fiction than fact. A report in the April 14 issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine said almost three-quarters of women who underwent a mammogram reported that the pain was relatively mild, falling at 4 or less on a scale of zero to 10, with 10 being the "worst pain you have ever felt."

Regardless of what women think of pain and mammogram, a Makati hospital believes it has found a way to get around the pain, and still conduct a breast exam as effectively as a regular mammogram.

Old CT, new technique

M-Tech Medical Hospital on Jupiter Street is proud about its painless computerized tomography (CT)-mammogram technique which doesn't involve any new technology.

The regular CT scanner used to map the heart, brain, colon and lungs has been readjusted to include breast scanning among its capabilities.

The Siemens Somatom Emotion employs the same power, speed and multislice capabilities as any high-tech CT scanner, but with the lowest possible radiation exposure, using an online dose reduction feature.

The machine looks like a giant donut with a bed at the hole in the middle. Just like in any CT scan procedure, the patient is asked to lie down on the bed for scanning.

The M-Tech team, however, has devised a way to keep the breasts in the required upright or cone-type position, allowing the machine to scan both breasts in full detail.

Detailed results

The results of CT scans on breasts have been described as "so fine" (finer than mammograhy results), specialists have been able to dissect scanned breast images on computers down to the smallest nodules.

Hospital administrator Armando Layco said the detailed results of the CT mammogram astounded even doctors from top hospitals.

"Such (detail) can be most beneficial for those who suspect they have breast cancer. It would be easier to detect exactly where the nodules, mass and tumors are located," he said.

Layco said CT mammograms could also detect nodules even as far as the armpit area.

"Instead of doing the breast CT mammogram alone, we can also look for incidental findings," he added.

Results from the CT mammography can be obtained in just five minutes.

Expensive procedure

The only "painful" thing about the CT mammogram is the price. Layco says the cost of a CT mammogram is three times that of a regular mammogram, which is around P1,000.

Layco admitted that CT mammograms were still not medically acceptable.

What is accepted at present are CT breast procedures—a multi-objective examination aimed not just at looking for tumors, but also to determine other conditions, like if lactation is possible for a pregnant woman.

For those who still believe in the credo "no pain, no gain," M-Tech Medical Hospital has retained its regular mammogram facilities and equipment.

The hospital currently provides service to more than 100 companies for routine medical checkups.

Melecio S. Magno: physicist and educator

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

MOST likely, physics is the most difficult natural science for students to grasp. Although force, motion and energy are ubiquitous, a full understanding of these concepts may elude most people. In fact the nitty-gritty of particle physics and astrophysics is still being debated until today.

A good physics textbook is a treasure. With clear expositions and logical examples, a book can mean the difference between a student who drops out in the first paragraph and one who is inspired to unlock the secrets of the universe himself or herself in the future.

Textbook writer

Thus, good textbook writers should foremost be good teachers, and Melecio S. Magno, Ph.D., was certainly one of them.

In 1969, his textbook "University Physics" (co-authored with colleagues from the University of the Philippines physics department) was published and soon became widely used in the country. He also became involved in secondary education, and greatly helped the Science Education Center (now the Institute of Science and Mathematics Education) to develop the high school textbook "Fundamentals of Physics," again used throughout the Philippines.

With his facility for making physics accessible, Dr. Magno inspired a lot of budding physicists. Under his guidance, many were able to obtain doctorate degrees in physics, and records showed that enrollment in physics and engineering courses picked up under his care.

Soon he started serving as an administrator, spearheading the faculty development and graduate manpower training programs. He became the vice president for academic affairs of the university in 1975.

Inevitably, his influence branched out beyond UP. He became a member of professional societies such as Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Sigma Xi Honor Society, American Physical Society, Philippine Fullbright Scholars Association, Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, National Research Council of the Philippines, and National Academy of Science and Technology, where he was Academician.

Continued service

Retirement in 1981 did not stop his service to the country. Dr. Magno served as president of the Science Foundation of the Philippines and vice president of NAST.

Dr. Magno received several honors, among them a Fullbright travel grant, an NEC-AID training grant, a UP endowment professorial chair in physics, and a UNDP-WMO fellowship in environmental physics and ozone research.

Dr. Magno, who was born on May 24, 1920, passed away last Sept. 27 at 83 years of age. His was a life well lived—a life of academic achievement and national service.

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre

High times for filmfest darling Patricia Clarkson

CLARKSON. Film roles came fitfully until "High Art" gave her career a jolt. AP

TORONTO—Patricia Clarkson is queen of the 2003 film festival circuit:

—Four movies at last winter's Sundance Film Festival, where she received a special acting prize for performances in "The Station Agent," "Pieces of April" and "All the Real Girls."

—A juicy little role in Nicole Kidman's "Dogville," a harsh critique of America that premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

—A whirlwind of publicity to promote this fall's theatrical releases of "The Station Agent" and "Pieces of April" at September's Toronto International Film Festival.

In "The Station Agent," Clarkson's a lonely, grieving artist. In "All the Real Girls," she's a slaphappy mom who does a goofy clown act for kids. In "Pieces of April," she's a caustic ice queen stricken with breast cancer. In "Dogville," she's a judgmental matron who suffers a horrible comeuppance.

"I'm suddenly where I always wanted to be in this business in that people see me in many different ways," Clarkson, 43, said in a recent interview.

Small film roles

Clarkson's name may not be that familiar, but she has left memorable impressions with a series of small film roles over the last 15 years. Anyone who caught Clarkson in "The Green Mile," "The Pledge" or "Far From Heaven" likely remembers her soulful eyes, aristocratic nose, angular cheekbones and husky voice.

And anyone who saw the 1998 art-house hit "High Art" is bound to recall Clarkson's ferociously manipulative role as an aging drug addict jealously scheming to maintain a hold on her lesbian lover.

Clarkson cobbled together a decent resumé of stage performances and supporting roles in TV and film, including "The Untouchables," "The Dead Pool" and "Jumanji." But film roles came fitfully until writer-director Lisa Cholodenko's "High Art" gave Clarkson a career jolt at an age when most actresses begin finding work scarcer.

"I went through a lull in my early 30s, oddly, but hey, in my late 30s, things took off," Clarkson said with a snap of her fingers. "Every day, I wake up and I say a little thank you to Lisa Cholodenko for casting me in her movie. Because it changed everything for me. Sometimes it is just one part that opens people's minds and eyes.

"And I think also, I needed to get older. There was a part of me that needed to kind of grow into my voice, face and body."

Great reviews

The last five years have brought great reviews, prestigious acting honors and steady work in such films as "Joe Gould's Secret," "Welcome to Collinwood" and the upcoming "Miracle," starring Kurt Russell in a dramatization of the 1980 US hockey team's Olympics triumph. "Miracle" and "Dogville" are due in theaters early next year.

The New York Film Critics Circle and the National Society of Film Critics named Clarkson best supporting actress for last year's 1950s melodrama "Far From Heaven," in which she played Julianne Moore's hypocritical pal. A few months earlier, Clarkson won an Emmy for a guest spot on "Six Feet Under."

She had been considered an Academy Awards contender for "Far From Heaven" but missed out on a nomination. It was Clarkson's first big taste of Oscar fever, and she admits it stung to be overlooked.

"Would it have been nice to be nominated? Absolutely. Was it disappointing? Of course, a little bit—and that is honest," Clarkson said. "But at the end of the day, I still had the experience of making that movie, and that will live on. That's still better than anything."

Art-house hit

In the current art-house hit, "The Station Agent," Clarkson plays opposite Peter Dinklage and Bobby Cannavale in playwright-turned-director Tom McCarthy's sweetly funny portrait of misfit friendship.

"Pieces of April," written and directed by novelist Peter Hedges ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape"), flits back and forth between two stories: A bungling attempt by Clarkson's black-sheep daughter (Katie Holmes) to reconnect with her dying mom by cooking Thanksgiving dinner for the family, and Clarkson's acerbically funny road trip to get there with her hubby (Oliver Platt) and their younger children.

"She's an amazing actress. She has such a very powerful presence," Holmes said. "She always has given outstanding performances and worked very hard, and I think she's finally getting the acclaim she deserves." *AP*

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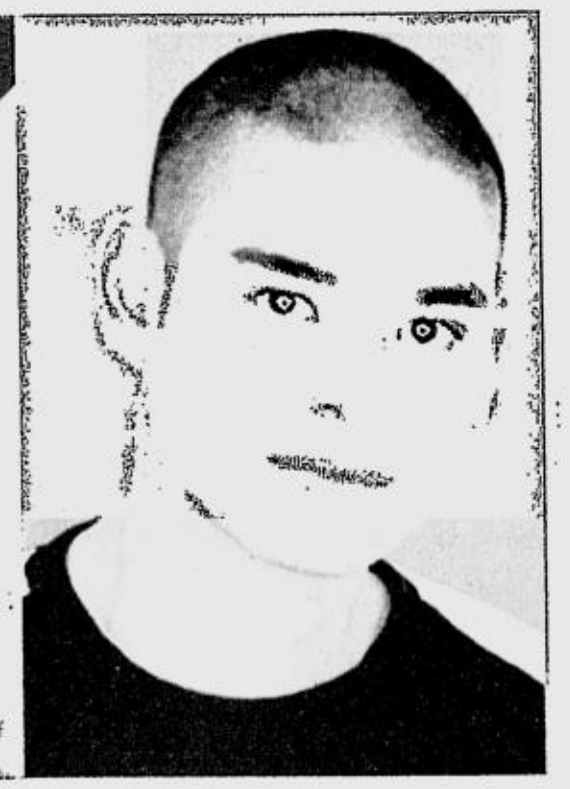

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The 'other woman' in Cesar Montano and Rico J. Puno's lives

By Andy P. Bais

IF show biz accounts are true, Rico J. Puno and Cesar Montano are "deadly" when it comes to women. But do you know that they share a special woman? The lucky lady is Norma Japitana, Rico and Cesar's talent manager.

NORMA J. with Cesar Montano, the biggest star in her stable of gifted performers.

Bankable performer

To Norma's credit, Rico has remained a bankable performer. Cesar is now one of our biggest stars.

Journalism has always been close to Norma's heart. In fact, she had been writing for as long as she can remember.

When publications closed down during the Martial Law era, she worked as promotions manager for Vicor Records. That ushered her entry into show business. "I was with Rico at the start of his career," Norma J. recalls.

When she left Vicor, Rico asked her to manage his career. She hesitated at first because she knew nothing about talent management. "*Pero natuto kami ni* Rico," she says.

Personal problems

Norma is more than a manager as far as Rico is concerned. "*Ay naku, pati* personal problems *niya, kasali ako*—and they're always about women. *Minsan*, he got into trouble with two women. He called me and there I was, driving in my pajamas at 4 a.m. *papunta sa* place *niya*. But in fairness to Rico, he is a good father to his children," she reveals.

Stint

Norma has been managing Cesar's career since 1989, after his stint with Seiko Films. "*Marami kaming pinagdaanan ni Buboy.* It took him eight long years to get cast in worthwhile films.

"*Nag-usap kami kung ano ang gusto niya.* He wanted to go into drama, so I went to different production companies to offer his services. Viva Films gave him the break, but he became a big star when he did the Rizal movie with Marilou Diaz-Abaya," she relates.

Excited

Norma is excited about Cesar's upcoming international movie, "The Great Raid," in which he plays a Filipino captain. She has already seen at a private screening in the States and she's proud of her prized talent's performance. "*Markado ang* role *niya*," she enthuses.

How does she handle negative publicity? "In the case of Cesar, we had a lot of that, mainly about his affairs with women. We agreed that I'd do the talking. *Nalusutan namin yun.* It's nice to be a woman of a certain age—*parang* you have license to say what you want," she winks.

Line producer

Does she argue with her talents? "With Cesar, *palagi*. If Cesar is the director, *napakagastos niya*. As line producer, I handle money matters. If he needs a helicopter, I suggest a truck. If he needs 200 extras, I tell him 40 *na lang, paikut-ikutin na lang ang* camera. Most of the time, *ayaw niyang mag*-compromise," she sighs.

One talent she is very excited about is Tosca Puno, Rico's daughter, who's a promising singer. "There are talents who are very good *pero walang dating. Pero si* Tosca, *iba*. When she appeared in a show in Hong Kong, the audience went wild — they really loved her," she exclaims.

How come she manages more male than female talents? "I'm not lucky with women. *Ang babae kasi, kapag nagka*-boyfriend, *nagiging* manager *nila yun. Pero itong macho guapito ko, ang tagal na namin!* We always quarrel about his women, but I'm still his manager. You just have to pray that they find the right women," she laughs.

Healthy lifestyle is Aubrey Miles' priority

By Mary Ann A. Baustista

WHEN she was younger, Aubrey planned to take up veterinary medicine or tourism in college, but her passion for singing led her to the UST Conservatory of Music instead. When she graduated, Aubrey was launched in Regal Films' "Prosti."

Frugal

Aubrey doesn't mind baring as long as she's not being exploited. She believes that luck without hard work is useless. She's also frugal.

MILES. Believes luck without hard work is useless.

Aubrey can be childlike and sensual at the same time. This combination is often on display her weekly sitcom, "Home Along Da Airport," and on the daily noontime show, "MTB."

Proper timing

"I want to be good at comedy, but I know that I still have a lot to learn. *Buti na lang*, with Tito Dolphy's help, *natuto ako ng* proper timing *sa* comedy," Aubrey shares.

She engages in a disciplined regimen to keep herself fit. She watches what she eats, avoids the nightlife and tries to get at least eight hours of sleep. Her healthy lifestyle has made her the perfect choice as image model for Bench underwear and Avia sports footwear.

Great gifts for homesick Pinoys abroad

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THERE used to be many Philippine food items that could be eaten only in this country—fresh mango, *daing, tuyo*, sardines, Lily's peanut butter, Barrio Fiesta *bagoong*, Via Mare *Bibingka*, Daza delights, etc. Today, all that has changed: Many bottled, frozen and canned items are exported around the world.

Fabulous taste

One item that has made an impact in the Pinoy market abroad is *tuyo*. A company in Bacolod came up with the brilliant idea of deboning the tiny salted fish and soaking it in marinade with corn oil.

Apart from the fabulous taste, it is convenient to eat and is a great gift for homesick Pinoys abroad. They call it "Gourmet *Tuyo*." There's also chopped *tuyo* with mushrooms, olives, capers and other spices.

Yummy

Cony's Kitchen, owned by Connie and Manolet Gonzalez, also bottles Gourmet *Tuyo* but it is soaked in extra virgin olive oil. Yummy!

I also love their Sauce Amaya, small slices of boneless *tuyo* with garlic, mushrooms, capers, olives and sun-dried tomatoes.

Gourmet *Daing* is salty, but the extra virgin olive oil reduces the saltiness.

I love their Pinoy Bacalao, an imitation of the salted cod or Spanish bacalao. It tastes authentic.

Cony's Kitchen products are perfect gifts for Christmas, or for friends or *balikbayans*!

Everytime I go to Vancouver, I bring about 20 bottles. My family loves them. They don't smell up the whole complex.

Cony's Kitchen has a branch at the entrance of the Glorietta 4 food court. Call 721-5691 and 727-9837.

Happy eating!

Hallmark screens six promising movies

THORA Birch plays the title role in "Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story."

THE HALLMARK Channel's "Movie Premieres" 9 p.m. slot screens these promising productions this month: Nov. 3, "Ann Rule's Stranger Beside Me," the true-to-life tale of the infamous serial killer, Ted Bundy. With Barbara Hershey and Billy Campbell.

Nov. 6, "Into Thin Air." This gritty depiction chronicles the most tragic ascent to Mt. Everest, which resulted in the death of eight climbers.

Nov. 9, "Hunger Point." This darkly comic film takes an unflinching look at society's obsession with beauty and the pressures it exerts on women.

Nov. 16, "Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story." Born poor, Murray won a New York Times scholarship to Harvard. Thora Birch won an Emmy nomination for her portrayal of the title character.

Nov. 22, "Returning Lily." Emma and other brave people fight a greedy developer who wants to destroy the natural beauty of an island in Hawaii.

Nov. 30, "Crown Heights." Two crusading men from divergent communities strive to bring peace to their racially conflicted neighborhood.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Avril Lavigne on HBO

On Nov. 10 at 10:30 p.m., HBO will present Avril Lavigne in concert. The performance, shot in Buffalo last June, is part of the sassy rock singer's "Try and Shut Me Up" world tour.

On her HBO showcase, Avril performs her big hits, including "Sk8er Boi," "I'm with You" and "Complicated."

'Search for A Star' semi-finals

At 6 Tonight, GMA-7's "Search for A Star" singing tilt will hold its fifth semi-finals for the year. Competing are weekly winners Sarah Jean Badana, Bituin Ramos, and Jomar dela Peña.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m., "The Golden Child." Nov. 2 at 8 p.m., "Sleepless in Seattle." Nov. 3 at 11:30 a.m., "The Majestic." Nov. 4 at 7:30 a.m., "These Old Broads." Nov. 5 at 2 p.m., "All the Pretty Horses." Nov. 6 at 12:45 a.m., "Devil in A Blue Dress." Nov. 7 at 5:30 p.m., "Pink Cadillac."

On Cinemax, Nov. 1 at 12 noon, "Tequila Sunrise." Nov. 2 at 1:30 p.m., "Peggy Sue Got Married." Nov. 3 at 6 a.m., "McKenna's Gold." Nov. 4 at 8 a.m., "The Bonfire of the Vanities." 7:15 p.m., "Muriel's Wedding." 9 p.m., "Born on the Fourth of July." Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m., "Buffalo Soldiers." Nov. 6 at 2 p.m., "Vertigo." Nov. 7 at 9:45 a.m., "Boys on the Side."

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Living in fabulous mansions full of beautiful stellar memories

By Behn Cervantes

THE LAST house Marlon and Ed owned in fabulous Las Vegas was on Omaha st., in a section of the glitzy city where streets are named after Native American tribes. So, it was no wonder that, as they drove me to their home (where I was to be their guest), we passed Cherokee, Mohawk and Mohican streets, bringing to mind those exciting days when Western America was the new frontier.

Namedropping

The house on Omaha st. once was occupied by Frank Sinatra. Thud! Beat that for namedropping, *ha*? To add further spice, Marlon whispered that Johnny Carson once also lived there. The second thud you heard was the weight of the second name dropped!

Naturally, when I stayed in the Omaha st. house, I had visions of Ava Gardner, the Rat Pack and other Ol' Blue Eyes supporting stars talking, singing and, of course drinking in the living room.

Did Ava walk barefoot through the house? Did Nancy, Frankie's daughter, wear those boots for walkin' there, too? In short, I was tickled pink walking where they did, and sleeping where they may have.

Real estate

Ed and Marlon are into real estate. They smartly buy the worst-looking house in the best neighborhood, refurbish it, and then sell at a profit. The Sinatra home has now been sold.

The duo presently lives in a house on Ottawa st., still in the same glitzy Las Vegas neighborhood. However, green-eyed friends call it "the most famous house in the neighborhood." Why? To start with, the house was sold to them by Todd Fisher. Who he, you ask?

Well, Todd is the son of Eddie Fisher and, Debbie Reynolds. He is also the brother of Carrie, Princess Leia in "Stars Wars" and also the author of "Postcards From the Past," a semi-autobiographical novel about her troubled relationship with her mom.

Todd, on the other hand, was named after the flamboyant producer of the Academy-Award-winning film "Around the World in 80 Days," whom the gorgeous Elizabeth Taylor escorted around to receive multiple awards, with a brand-new tiara, and diamonds on her neck, ears, wrists and fingers.

That spectacular Todd gift commenced

SINATRA. Previous owner of Las Vegas mansion on Omaha st.

Liz's most lasting love affair—her unending love for diamonds and other desirable stones!

Widow

The widow was consoled by Todd's faithful friend Eddie, then married to America's little sweetheart, Debbie. Before long, Liz was sad no longer, and became a merry widow who stole Eddie from poor Debbie. The world branded Taylor a homewrecker and vixen—the perfect choice to play Cleopatra for the then unprecedented salary of $1 million.

During the troubled shooting of the most expensive epic made at the time, Liz met the talented but unpredictable Richard Burton, swiftly fell in love with him, got tired of Eddie, and started her most passionate love affair.

So, here I was in this house that brought back all those exciting memories!

Furthermore, Marlon had ensconced me in the master's bedroom, which meant I slept where Debbie did. I walked to the balcony to look down on the swimming pool accessed by a winding staircase. Marlon also showed me the large bathroom with a tub almost half the size of the pool. Obviously, Debbie liked to bathe!

Added thrill

Imagine, my added thrill when Marlon informed me that the house also used to be owned by world heavyweight champion Sonny Liston, whose mystery-shrouded death took place in the very basement where I am now writing this article. And, before Liston, was there another celebrity? Yes: Kirk Kirkorian, now president of MGM! Two more loud and reverberating thuds!

How much glitzier do you want it to get, huh?!

Love and music weave a beautiful spell

By Nestor U. Torre

AT the Manila Cathedral and the Manila Hotel on Nov. 7, a unique "musical romance" drama will play itself out as Filipina Lorraine Pimentel and Belgian Alain Borghijs pledge their troth and celebrate with their loved ones and friends at a reception made even more beautifully romantic by songs composed by the bride's mother, Lourdes "Bing" de la Llana Pimentel.

Penchant

Bing, the wife of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, has a penchant for writing songs to celebrate or highlight important chapters in her family's life, and her daughter Lorraine's wedding is no exception.

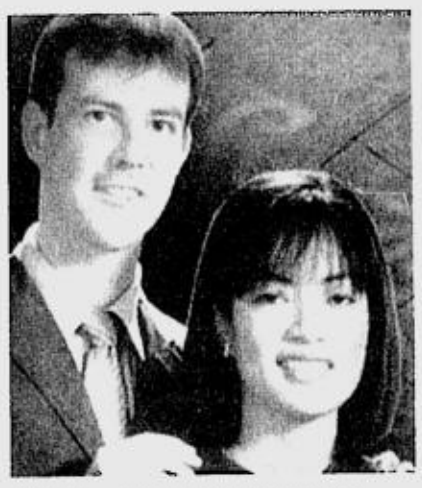
For the Manila Hotel reception, Bing has composed three songs, "Magic to My Heart," "Wagas na Pag-Ibig" and "Stapel Verliefd-Madly in Love." Along with the Frank Sinatra hit "Sweet Lorraine," they will be performed in a delightful mini-show by Bimbó Cerrudo, Chelsea Emata, Jingle Buena, Rito Asilo and Andy Bais.

"Stapel Verliefd" is sung by Bimbo to express the loving thoughts of the Belgian bridegroom, while "Wagas na Pag-ibig" has Jingle standing in musically for Bing, singing a mother's advice to her daughter on her wedding day.

Musical keepsake

Lorraine and Alain's love story is similarly beautiful, as this retelling included in the couple's musical keepsake for their wedding guests reveals:

"One day, as a Master's student at Georgetown University in Washington D.C., Lorraine was accepted to an



ALAIN and Lorraine first met as lecturer and exchange student, respectively, at the University of Antwerp.

exchange program to study European economics in Belgium. Little did she know that she was not only getting an education, but a life-altering experience as well.

"As a graduating Ph.D student in Economics at the University of Antwerp in Belgium, Alain was asked to give a lecture to the group of exchange students from Georgetown University. Little did he know that this would lead to a lifetime commitment.

"As the exchange program drew to an end, little did they realize that their goodbyes were temporary, and what seemed to be their last handshake would turn out to be the beginning of a more lasting union.

"Though the ocean that separated them was vast and deep, when love beckoned, both willingly surrendered to its course. Though the road to togetherness was hard and steep, both

BING Pimentel, the bride's mother, is a composer who has written three songs for the wedding reception.

painstakingly kept in touch and endured a seemingly endless period of separation through prayer, understanding, and love.

Favorite song

"Over Christmas, Alain traveled to the Philippines to visit Lorraine and her family. He confessed his feelings by serenading them with his favorite song, "Sweet Lorraine." His daring confession and selfless love won Lorraine's heart.

"Soon thereafter, the dreams Alain and Lorraine shared turned into more concrete plans, One evening, Alain, happy and hopeful, asked Lorraine to share in his future as his wife. She lovingly agreed.

"Following the Filipino tradition of 'Pamanhikan,' Alain and his parents traveled from Belgium to the Philippines to officially ask Lorraine's parents for their blessings, which Senator and Mrs. Pimentel gave, with love and prayers. They heartily welcomed Alain and his parents into their family.

"Alain and Lorraine sincerely hope that you can share in their joy, as their dream finally comes true.

"They ask that you pray for their future as they start their life together as husband and wife. Following the wedding, the couple will reside in Boston, Massachusetts, where Alain will pursue post-doctoral studies at Harvard University."

David Gates returns with new album

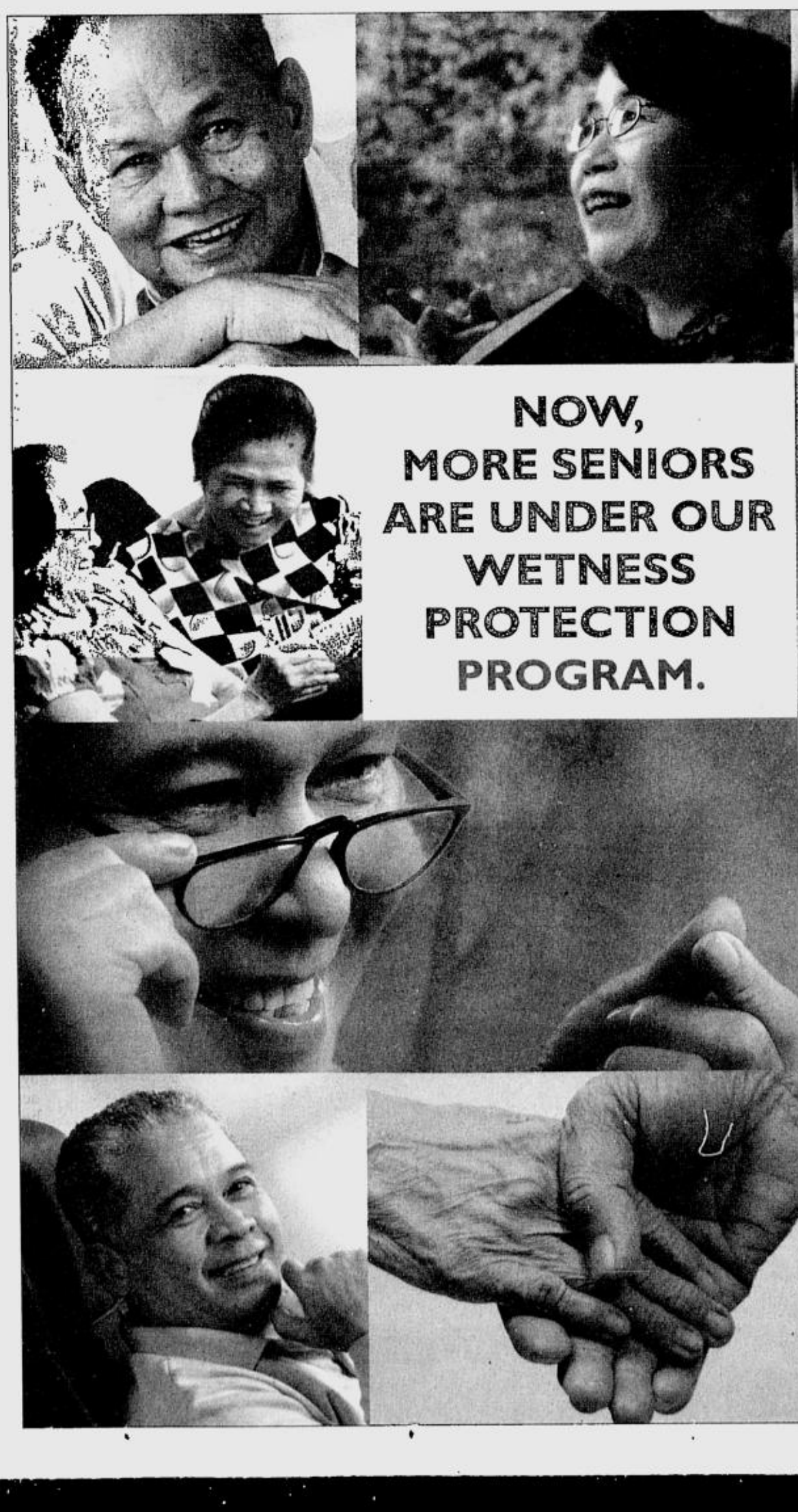
HIS gentle guitar strokes and classic tunes have served as the soundtrack of choice of Filipino romantics for decades. Pleasantly light but with the familiar hook that strikes straight through to the Filipino consciousness, his music has been of legendary acclaim. Once more, David Gates proudly brings his gift of music and packs it in a new CD, "Songbook."

Legendary band

The former lead singer of the legendary band Bread and now an accomplished solo artist, David Gates is back with five new promising songs, plus the hits we've known him for: "If," "Aubrey," "Diary," and "Never Let Her Go," among others.

The album includes other David Gates essentials, such as "Make It With You," "Baby I'm A-Want You," "It Doesn't Matter to Me," "Everything I Own," "Lost Without Your Love," "Sweet Surrender" and "Guitar Man."

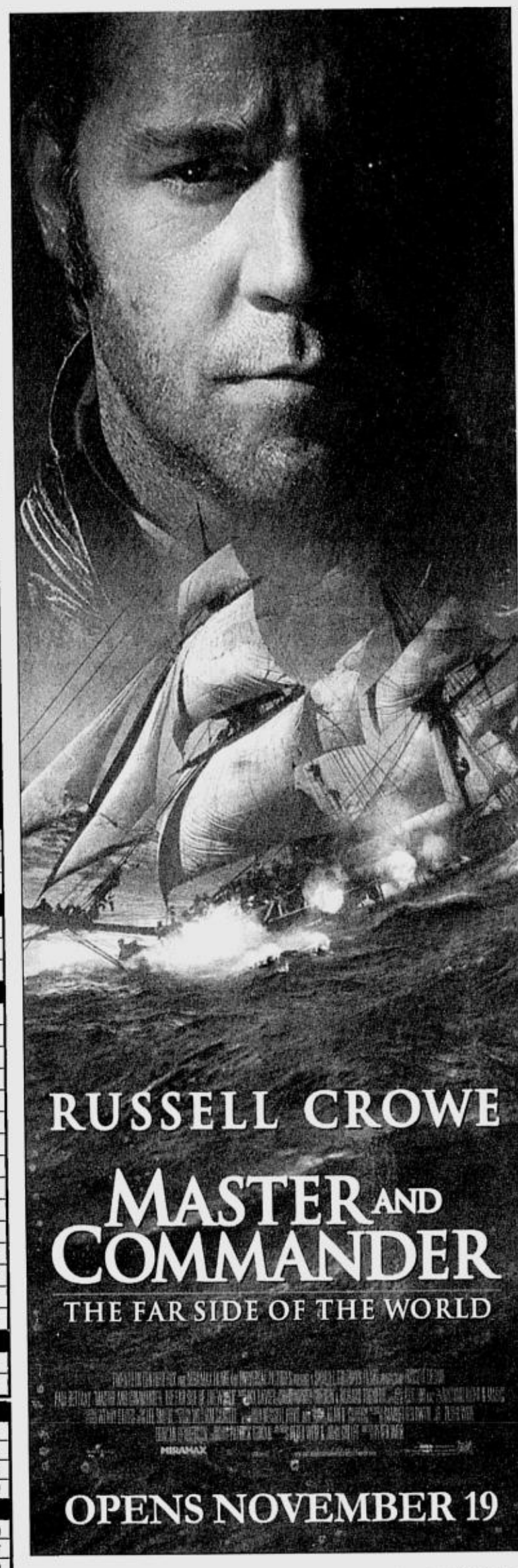
New songs to keep track of are "I Can't Play the Songs," "The Mustang," "Love is Always Seventeen" and "Mirror."



Maksim arriving for promo tour

MAKSIM, the talented, trendy and good-looking musician, fuses classical and pop turns in his debut album, "The Piano Player." Suddenly, classical music is young and fun again!

Ayala Center and Globe Handyphone present Maksim in his first Philippine promo tour. Catch him live on Nov. 8 at the Greenbelt 3 Park.



THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MY FIRST ROMANCE
B	MAPUPULANG LABI
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	MAPUPULANG LABI
CINEMA-3	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BELPHEGOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-7	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-8	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-12	SPY
CINEMA-14	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	INNER SENSES
CINEMA-4	MATCHSTICK MEN

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE	1 UPTOWN GIRLS	Artfilm 1 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 IDENTITY 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00	THX 1 UPTOWN GIRLS
2 UPTOWN GIRLS	2 IDENTITY		THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 UPTOWN GIRLS 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00	2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 PHONE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE RUNDOWN 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	2 UPTOWN GIRLS 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HEAD OF THE STATE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	3 IDENTITY
4 THE RUNDOWN	4 THE SPY		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE RUNDOWN 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00	4 THE SPY
	5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 MY FIRST ROMANCE 12:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40	5 THE RUNDOWN
	6 MY FIRST ROMANCE			
	7 HEAD OF THE STATE			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
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1 (DOLBY) THE SPY
2 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS) UPTOWN GIRLS
4 (GOLD / DOLBY EX) AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
5 (GOLD / DOLBY EX) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 (GOLD / SDDS) IDENTITY
7 (GOLD / DOLBY EX) MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 MY FIRST ROMANCE
9 THE PHONE
10 FREAKY FRIDAY

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(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 MAPUPULANG LABI

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www.clickthecity.com.ph Movies
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 BELPHEGOR
3 MAPUPULANG LABI
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE RUNDOWN
5 BUGBOG SARADO

METROPOLIS
www.clickthecity.com.ph star
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 MAPUPULANG LABI
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 UTANG NG AMA
6 IDENTITY

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Piñas) tel 873.5004
1 BELPHEGOR
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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1 MEDALLION
2 FREAKY FRIDAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 KERIDA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA
Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 MAPUPULANG LABI
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 (DTS) IDENTITY
8 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
9 (DOLBY) THE SPY
Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE
Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781
1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
5 UTANG NG AMA
6 (DOLBY) IDENTITY
7 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
8 BUGBOG SARADO
9 KISKISAN
Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (SDDS) BELPHEGOR
3 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DOLBY) UTANG NG AMA
5 MAPUPULANG LABI
Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS) VISIBLE SECRET-2
4 MAPUPULANG LABI
5 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN

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1 RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson Lords Jennet TELE OF EROTICK / MAPUPULANG LABI / RESERVE

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Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 IDENTITY
3 MAPUPULANG LABI
4 THE PHONE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) THE SPY
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 RESERVE
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 MAPUPULANG LABI

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THE SPY
4 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
5 (DTS) IDENTITY
6 MAPUPULANG LABI
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-6926
1 KATAS
2 FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BELPHEGOR
2 (DTS) MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS) AMERICAN PSYCHO
4 BELPHEGOR
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 MEDALLION
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
4
Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 BELPHEGOR
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS) MY FIRST ROMANCE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 KIKAY
3 (DTS) UTANG NG AMA
4 MAPUPULANG LABI
Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 AMERICAN PSYCHO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 INNER SENSES

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 MATCHSTICK MEN
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DOLBY) MY FIRST ROMANCE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) THE RUNDOWN
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS-ES) UTANG NG AMA
4 BUGBOG SARADO

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

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NOW SHOWING

Stephen King offers advice to aspiring writers

By Ronald G. Mangubat

BETWEEN the ages of 12 and 14, Stephen Edwin King, now the undisputed master of horror novels, submitted stories to local publishers, hoping to see his byline in newspapers and magazines. But instead of receiving nods of approval, all he got was a series of rejection slips.

KING. No more rejection slips.

First non-fiction book

Today, Stephen King is regarded as one of the most prolific, popular and richest writers. Having written more than 40 bestselling novels, he recently surprised his readers by writing "On Writing A Memoir of the Craft" (published by Pocketbooks, 2001, 274 pp.), his first non-fiction book.

"On Writing" is part memoir and part virtual writing class. King takes readers on an enlightening journey through the joys and pains of the writing craft.

For years, he wasn't making any headway in his writing career.

One day, however, two unrelated ideas hit him: adolescent cruelty and telekinesis. These random ideas gestated and soon, a horror story took shape.

The result was "Carrie," his first big hit that tells the story of a shy teenage girl with telekinetic power, who was endlessly ridiculed by her classmates and, when pushed to the wall, used her powers to seek vengeance against those who maligned her.

That novel opened the doors to fame and fortune, especially when a Hollywood major studio bought the story for filming.

After that gigantic leap, King's creative juices flowed and his good luck snowballed. From "The Shining" to "Pet Semetary," up to his recent novel, "Dream Catchers," he was able to consistently terrify millions of readers with his unique plots, good characterizations and super storytelling.

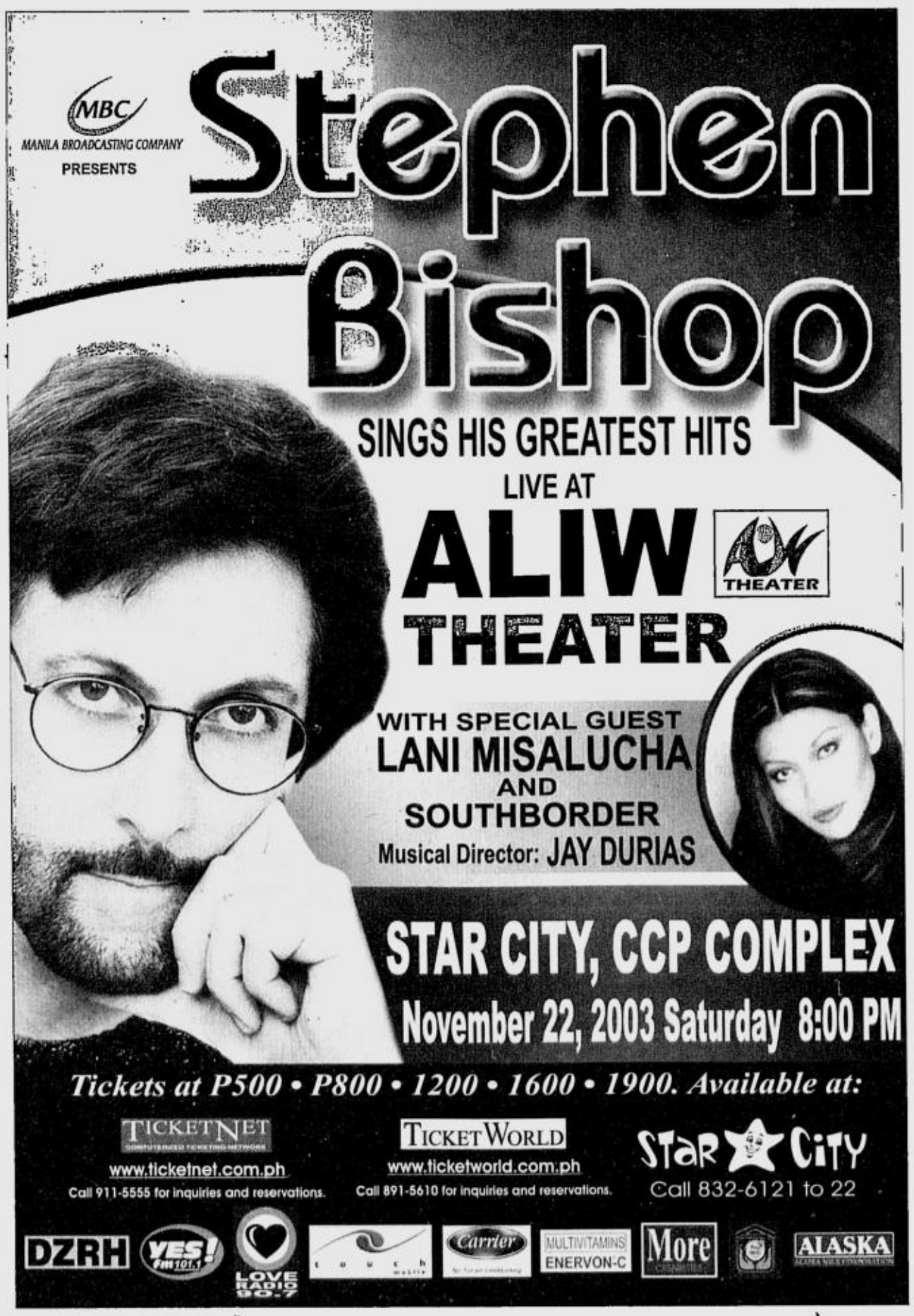
Adverb

The part of the book which some critics describe as the "chewy" portion is his "writing class," where he motivates, inspires and invites readers to embrace the writing life.

Without sounding preachy, King offers his readers jewels of writing tips, like "the adverb is not your friend," "each draft should be 10 percent shorter than the first," and "write anything at all, as long as you tell the truth."

He also highly recommends that all budding writers read the classic "The Elements of Style" by Strunk and White. All throughout the book, King encouraged his readers to have a constant hunger and healthy appetite for reading and writing.

STEPHEN/ C6



Stephen King offers advice to aspiring writers

From page C5

The book is also an honest confession of the author's life that reveals his drinking and drug problems, which started in 1975. Employing the world-famous Hemingway and Edgar Allan Poe defense that the more you drink, the more creative you become, and the more twisted drug-pop intellectual myth, King writes about how he struggled to kick those bad habits.

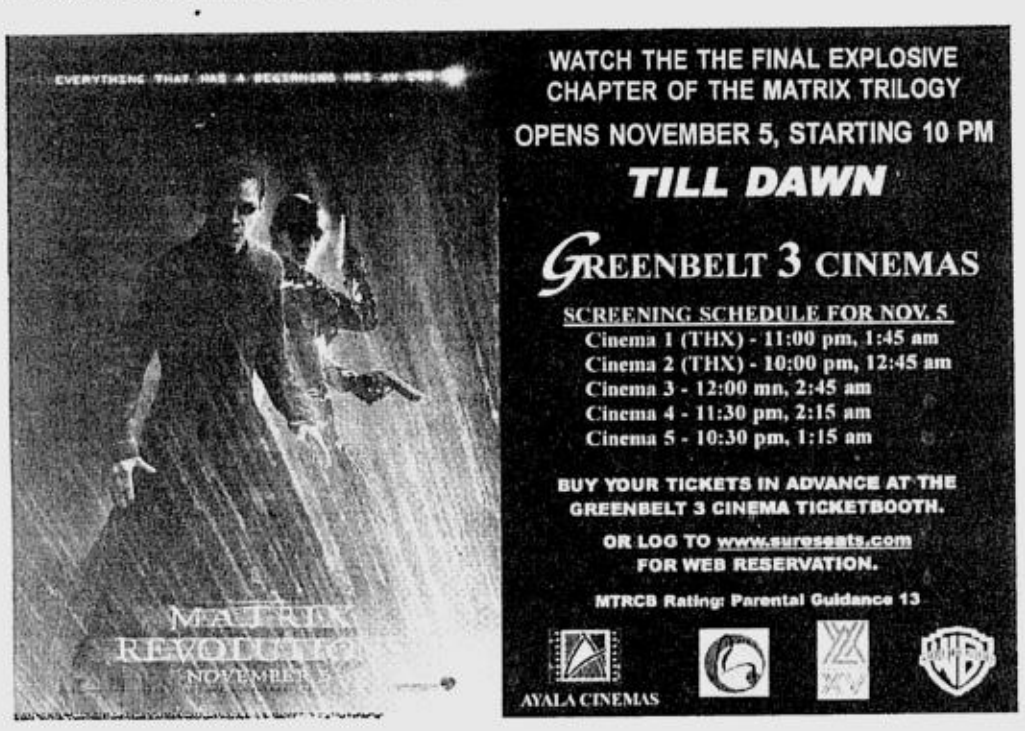
Accident

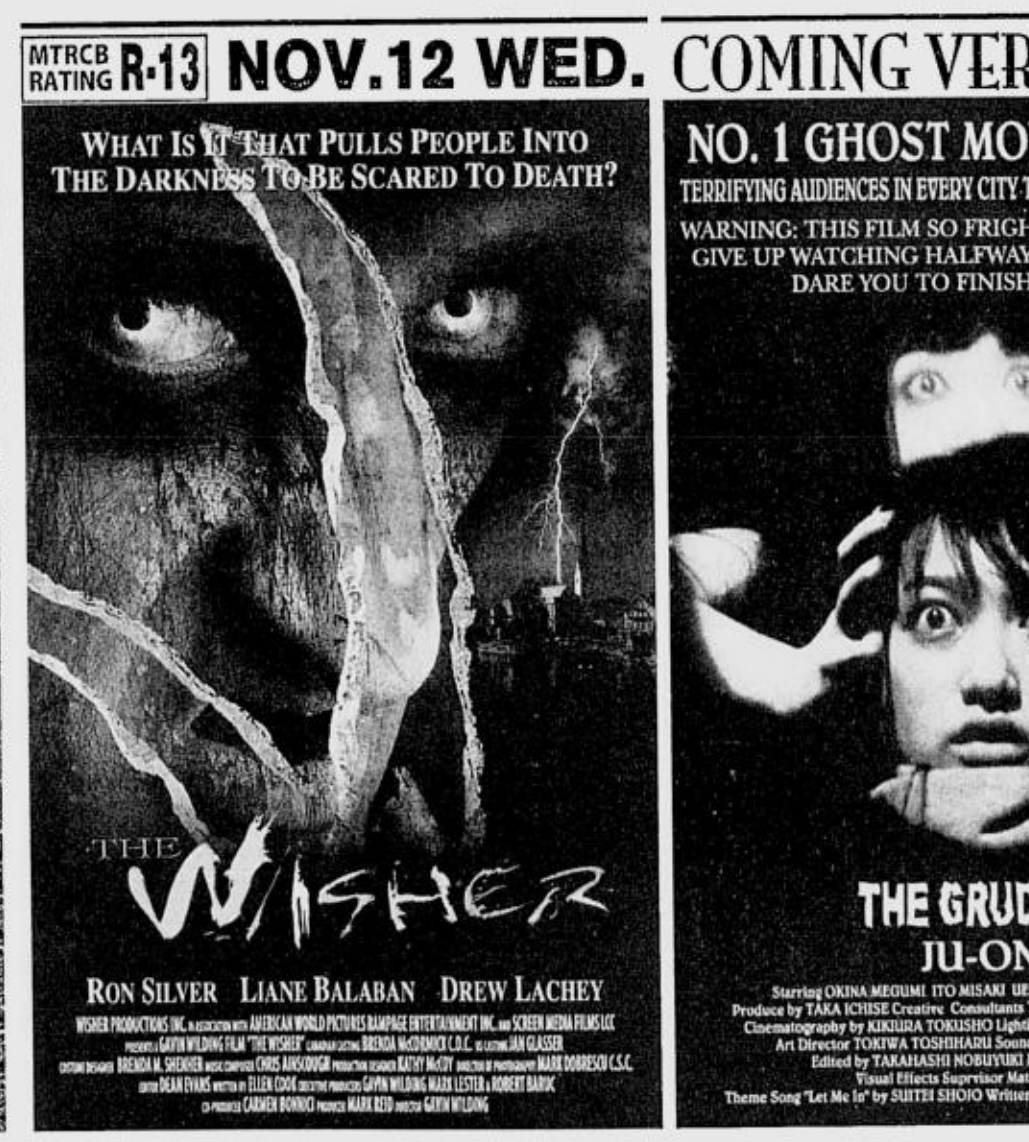
This later led to his eventual "mellowing" when he met a near-fatal accident in 1999. Throughout this roller-coaster chain of events, King credits his wife and family for always being there for him.

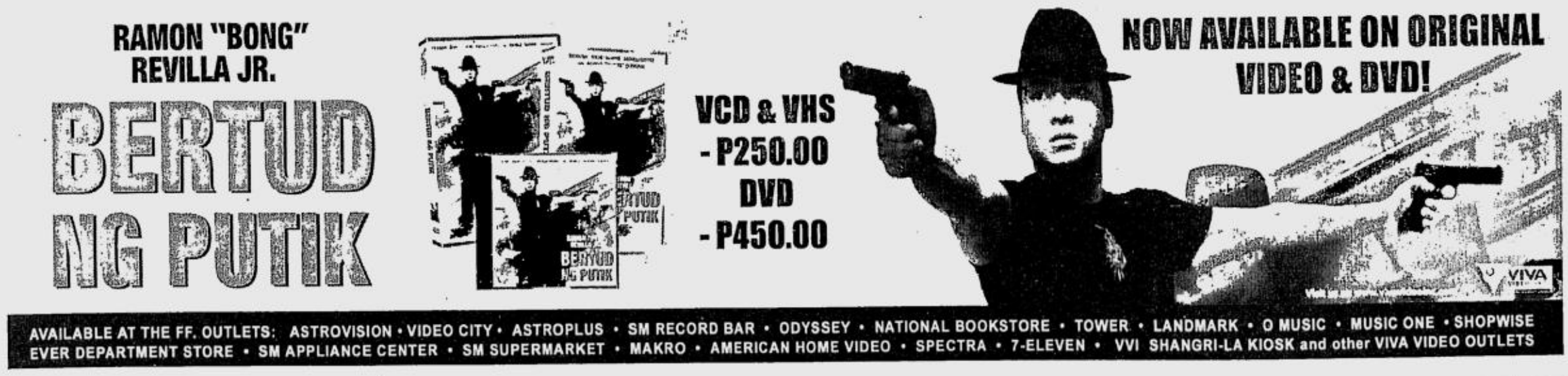
It was writing that started his descent into the dangerous mire of drugs and booze, but it was also writing that served as a healing therapy for him when he decided to bounce back and embrace his second lease on life. Writing therefore, has allowed him to grow, experiment, study and learn from others.

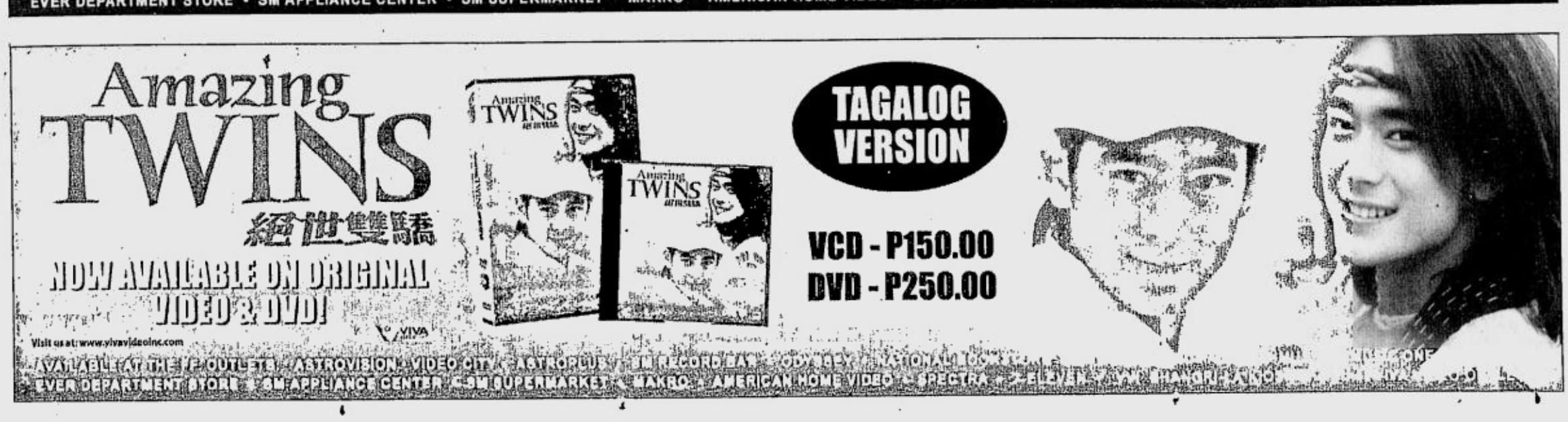
As he further ruminates: "All the arts depend upon telepathy to some degree, but I believe that writing offers the purest distillation."

For those thinking of making a living through writing, this Stephen King book offers dazzling jewels in terms of tips, perceptive advice—and a whole lot more!









Three new local and foreign films hit the spot

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER they worked so well together on "Munting Tinig," the star-director team of Alessandra de Rossi and Gil Portes have another dramatic powerhouse in store for viewers in the Metro filmfest-bound "Homecoming," a movie about SARS.

Nurse

Elizabeth Oropesa and Alessandra play a mother and daughter who are reunited after Alessandra has worked for five years as a nurse in Canada. Upon coming home, Alessandra plans to marry her longtime boyfriend, and everything looks rosy. As for Elizabeth, she sees in her daughter her hope for a brighter future for her family.

Trouble is, the young nurse has contracted the dreaded SARS virus, and has brought it home with her. The infectious disease affects not just her immediate family, but her hometown itself, which has to deal with its diverse and complex consequences.

Story and screenplay are by Portes, Adolfo Alix Jr. and Senedy Que, the same team that wrote "Munting Tinig." We trust that they will be similarly successful and effective with this follow-up project.

Eerie whodunit

A good Hollywood production to see this week is the eerie whodunit "Identity," with John Cusack, Ray Liotta and Rebecca DeMornay topbilling.

CUSACK, DE ROSSI AND CROWE. Topbilling "Identity," "Homecoming" and "Master and Commander," respectively.

The film has a shocking twist added for good measure. It's about 10 strangers who are brought together by the savage rainstorm that they're all trying to get away from.

Family in crisis

The strangers include a limo driver, an '80s TV star, a cop, a killer, a call girl, a newlywed couple, a night manager, and three members of a family in crisis.

The weird thing is, after they find refuge, the strangers get mysteriously eliminated one by one. They then realize that they must work together to unmask the serial killer in their midst, or else they will all end up dead!

But the task is made dauntingly difficult (for the audience as well) by the fact that each character has been given a flaw and a secret—"something they're frightened of, something they're protecting, something that implicates them," director James Mangold reveals.

Twists and turns

As a result, the film is expertly set up from start to finish. Mangold, again: "Viewers will not be able to anticipate most of the surprise twists and turns. They'll be looking elsewhere. Yet the clues are there from the film's very first scenes—which makes the movie both fun and challenging at the same time!"

Finally, Russell Crowe has a new starrer, "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," which plays in town this month.

Set during the Napoleonic Wars in 1806, the film is a seafaring adventure about the British ship, HMS Surprise, which travels a great distance to chase down a French super-frigate, the Acheron.

The daunting voyage takes the vessels from the stormy waters of Cape Horn, up the South American coast, to the Galapagos islands.

Crowe plays the HMS Surprise's captain, Jack Aubrey. He travels around the world with his friend and secret agent, Stephen Maturin (Paul Bettany). The film is directed by the well-regarded Peter Weir.

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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE SPY PG13 12:45,2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	UPTOWN GIRLS PG13 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00	THE RUNDOWN PG13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20
MY FIRST ROMANCE GP 12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER R13 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	IDENTITY R18 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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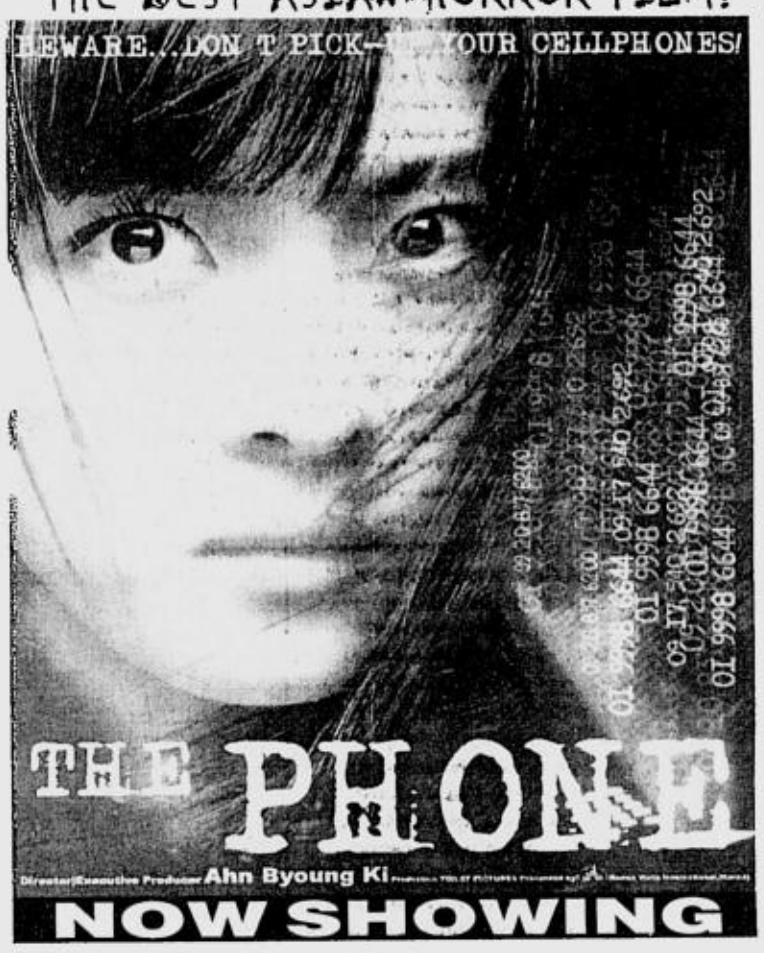

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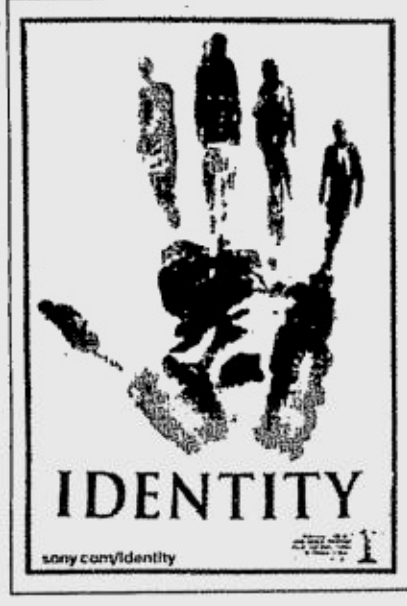

Special Halloween Presentation!
A SMART, SCARY THRILLER
What if every choice we make was already decided for us? What if there really were no coincidences in life and our destinies were already predetermined?
From the producer of the SCREAM movies, comes IDENTITY, a smart, mind- bending thriller with a disturbing twist.
Ten strangers with secrets are brought together in a motel on a rainstorm. A limo driver (John Cusack), an '80s TV star (Rebecca DeMornay), a cop (Ray Liotta) who is transporting a killer (Jake Busey), a call girl (Amanda Peet), a pair of newlyweds and a family in crisis, all take shelter at a desolate motel run by a nervous night manager.
Relief in finding shelter is quickly replaced with spine-chilling fear as the 10 travelers die, one by one. They soon realize that, if they are to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them all together.
NOW SHOWING

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
Ali 2	MAPUPULANG LABI
Ali 3	THE SPY
Ali 4	RUNDOWN
Ali 5	IDENTITY
Ali 6	UPTOWN GIRL
Ali 7	MY FIRST TOMANCE

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NOV 9	PBA GAMES
NOV 10	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 12	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 14	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY

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SATURDAY *special*

CARRIE Ann-Moss, Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne topbill "Matrix Revolutions."

'Matrix' film to strike blow against piracy

BEIJING—In the sci-fi blockbuster "The Matrix Reloaded," the hero battles a swarm of enemies who keep multiplying until they overwhelm him and force him to flee.

Similar fight

Movie studios have waged a similar fight in China against a seemingly endless horde of pirates who hawk rip-off DVDs of the latest silver screen hits for less than $1.

Now, Warner Bros, the Time Warner studio behind "The Matrix" series, hopes to turn the tables by showing the trilogy's final film in China on the same day as in other countries, betting that people would rather spend their money on legitimate movie tickets than on fake DVDs.

The Nov. 6 debut of "The Matrix Revolutions" in Beijing—timed to coincide with its US release on Nov. 5—will be the first time Chinese moviegoers won't have to wait weeks or months for the latest box-office smash to light up local screens.

"We are speeding up the importation of films with the aim of curbing pirated copies," said Zhou Tiedong, an official with China Film Group Corp, the government body that approves foreign films.

"The pirated copies usually appear in China three days after the first showing in the United States. We will leave zero space for pirated copies if films can be shown at the same time as the international market," Zhou said.

Plans

A Warner executive in Beijing confirmed the plans but gave no further details. Other spokesmen in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Los Angeles were not immediately available for comment.

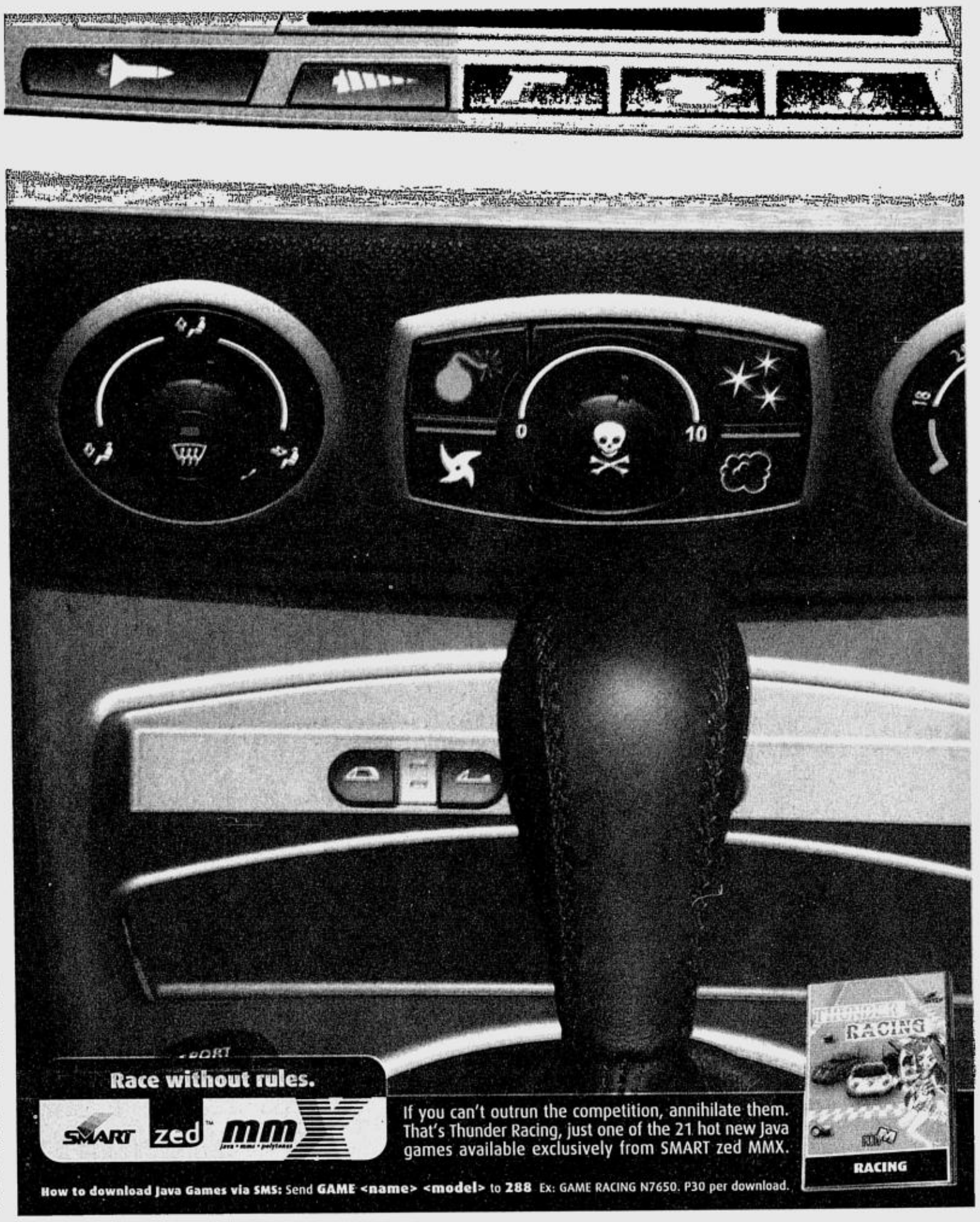
The plans were sealed just ahead of a visit to Beijing this week by US Commerce Secretary Don Evans, who is expected to raise piracy and other issues in meetings with Chinese officials.

The "Matrix" movies, starring Keanu Reeves as a hacker who learns that sentient machines have enslaved humanity in a vast computer simulation, have won legions of fans in China thanks to their formula of Hong Kong-style kung fu, mind-bending special effects and philosophical ruminations.

Potential

But the "Revolutions" debut will be but one step in tapping the potential of the entertainment market in China, where rosy developments like rising incomes among its 1.3 billion people are offset by widespread disregard for copyrights.

Although authorities sometimes make a show of cracking down on piracy by crushing mountains of DVDs and compact discs with steamrollers, many say the problem has only grown worse. *Reuters*



Sharon Stone makes a purrfect villain in 'Catwoman'

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM *Agnes Domingo*: "I read somewhere that my favorite actress, Sharon Stone, is making her comeback movie, 'Catwoman.' But isn't Halle Berry starring in that one?"

Yes, Sharon Stone is doing "Catwoman" with Halle Berry, but she won't be playing Batman's popular feline nemesis. This time, she's going the Demi Moore route by agreeing to take on the showy *contravida* role. Berry plays the title role in the movie that promises to be the "mother of all catfights."

Dramatic thriller

But "Catwoman" isn't Stone's "comeback" movie. She didn't really retired after she married San Francisco Examiner editor Phil Bronstein seven years ago, she just didn't like the offers that came here way. Until "Cold Creek Manor," the new dramatic thriller by Mike Figgis, came.

In the movie, she plays the suspicious wife

SHARON/ D3

Reality shows finally start to make their mark on local television

BEDIONES AND QUIAMBAO. Hosts of "Extra Challenge."

By Nestor U. Torre

THE TELENOVELAS, Pinoy soap serial and Chinovelas have lorded it over our TV screen for so long that they look like they're here to stay. But some signs of a major takeover are evident on the small screen: with shows like "Extra Challenge" and "Wish Ko Lang" showing the way, "reality" shows are finally poised to make their mark on the local television scene.

Way behind

As usual, we're way behind other telecasting countries, which have long embraced reality TV, with the popularity of such programs as "Fear Factor" and "Survivor."

The advantages of reality TV shows are clear: Since they don't employ stars, they're cheaper to produce than drama series or sitcoms. Their focus on the "real" makes for great empathy, because "ordinary" viewers can readily relate to the similarly "ordinary" contestants on the TV screen.

And the relative lack of a structured set-up in terms of script or direction makes for more unexpected occurrences that keep viewers wondering what other surprises the programs have in store.

Limitations

On the other hand, the format's limitations are also quite obvious: Since shows are shot off-the-cuff, the things that the non-star participants do are often quite boring! So much for the "excitement" of spontaneous action.

It's quickly shown that, in many instances, the reason these people are unknowns is because they have little to offer to the viewing public that's unique, vital and charismatic.

No wonder they're remained unknowns up to this point! And the sooner they revert back to non-star status, the better it would be for everybody!

This lack of natural excitement has prompted some TV people to cheat, by manipulation in terms of script and direction. Thus, some scenes are staged for maximum emotional impact, and a number of contestants parrot "effective" lines not of their own concoction.

Gambits

All of these gambits run counter to the reality TV credo, and they're easy to spot on local shows because they're so ineptly pulled off. Even when they cheat, some TV people can't be professional about it . . .

But the lower production cost and appeal of the reality TV format have started to make it popular in these parts, and we now see it elbowing its way into the early-evening timeslot that used to be dominated by the soaps, of whatever cultural or national derivation.

Aside from the reformatted "Extra Challenge" and "Game Ka Na Ba?," new reality programs like "Starstruck" and "Star in A Million" are making their bid for viewers' attention.

Having long gotten bored with the telenovelas' overlong reign, we welcome the rise of this novel program format. But we can see that, if many other TV people jump onto this new programming bandwagon, it can quickly lose its novelty and appeal.

The key really is to have varied TV programming, with no single format dominating. Let's have shows for the thinking viewer, and also for the people who just want to pass the time viewing eye candy. "Democracy" on the television screen is the way to go!

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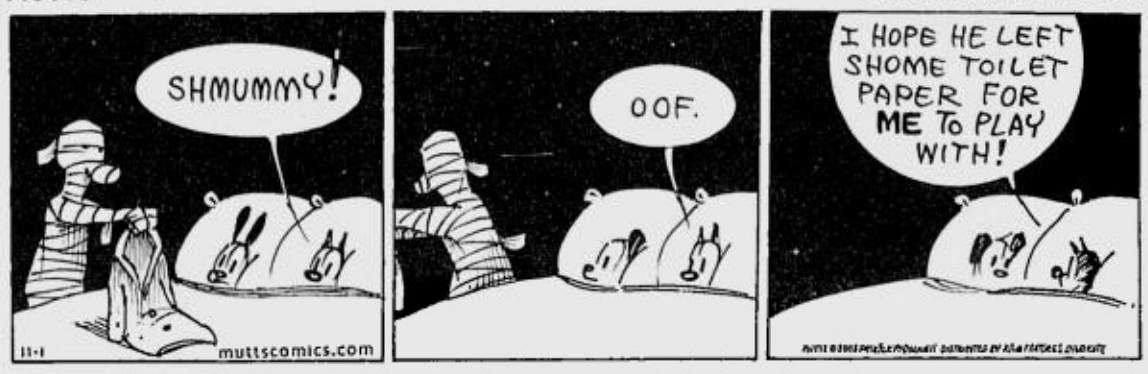

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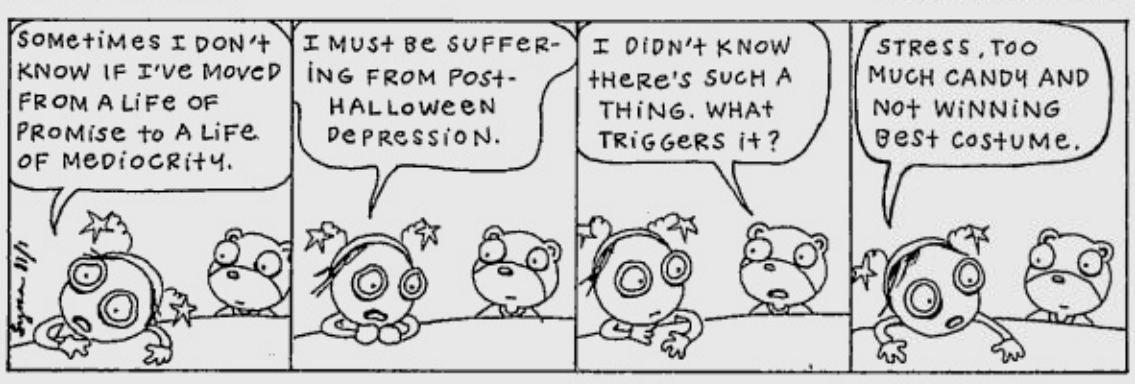


DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Many of you are attracted to working with or near danger. Fortunately, all of you have excellent powers of concentration and focus. Routine stifles you, which is why you like excitement in your job. You see each new day as a fresh adventure. You are confident, direct and willing to listen to others. This year focuses on relationships.
Birthdate of: Jenny McCarthy, actress; Lyle Lovett, singer/actor; Gary Player, golfer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Trust your new ideas about how to use someone's resources (possessions or money) to make improvements to your job or possibly to your health. Your thinking is sharp today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to enjoy dealing with the public as well as enjoy dealing with partners and close friends. You feel warmhearted and friendly

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You easily see the big picture at work now. You're not concerned with today as much as you are concerned with tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow. (Smart.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Some of you might want to make long-term plans for the education of your children today. You're definitely thinking about overall plans for the future.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your great ideas about home and real estate could cost you money today. But then, great ideas often do. If you've got the cash, do the deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent day for all business negotiations, commercial transactions and discussions about contracts. You know how to work well with others now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): If you are clear about what you want in life, it is much easier to get it. Today is a good time to talk about your hopes and dreams for the future, especially as they relate to your job and your earnings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your intellectual curiosity is aroused today. Conversations with groups, organizations and friends will be lively and stimulating. Enjoy your day!

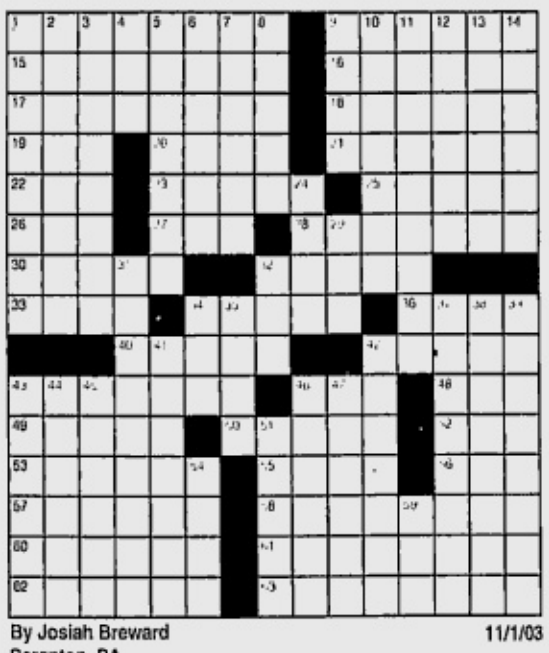
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's easy to talk to the head honcho today. Important people are willing to listen to you now. They like your big ideas and your positive enthusiasm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Philosophical and religious subjects attract you today. You are also interested in information about foreign countries and strange, faraway places.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The Moon continues to stay in your sign for one more day, giving you a slight advantage over others. Milk this for all it's worth. Go after every opportunity.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Conversations with others, including strangers, can be enlightening and informative today. Who knows where your next important lesson will come from? Keep an open mind (but not so open that everything falls out).

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

11/1/03

ACROSS
1 Gave a hand
9 Imitation gold
15 Poet Stephane
16 Nursery need
17 Operation of planes
18 Decorative border
19 CD-__
20 Comparative phrase
21 Unruffled
22 White-tailed eagle
23 Wineglass features
25 Like some cereals
26 Link
27 Nourished
28 Lush
30 Irascible
32 Speak in a formal manner
33 Greek peak
34 Say
36 Monster's loch
40 Jack of the nursery rhyme
42 Respond to a stimulus
43 Anne Tyler novel, "Morgan's __"
46 Tiger's org.
48 Haggard heroine
49 Pinnacles
50 Reject with distain
52 Tiger s letter?
53 "__ and Louise"
55 Satie or Estrada
56 Guy's address
57 Singer Mel
58 Capital of South Australia
60 Conger catchers
61 Purple shade
62 Restoration poet
63 Molting snakes

DOWN
1 Almond liqueur
2 Pungent hors d'oeuvres
3 Slender condition
4 Stevedores' grp.
5 Fulfill
6 Wistful
7 Chewed the scenery
8 Subdivision of a religion: abbr.
9 Lofty poems
10 Outlast
11 Foot-washer Mary
12 Laudanum or heroin
13 Of a fasting period
14 Pressing
24 Aching
29 Golf course standard
31 Like mortarboards
32 Mel of Cooperstown
34 Ornamental vase
35 Some infielder putouts
37 Section of Manhattan
38 Roy of "All That Jazz"
39 Helmsmen
41 Ant
42 Caused resentment
43 Tapped gently
44 More painful
45 Rank
46 Muslim sex segregation
47 Distress
51 Rings
54 Org.
59 Word in partnerships

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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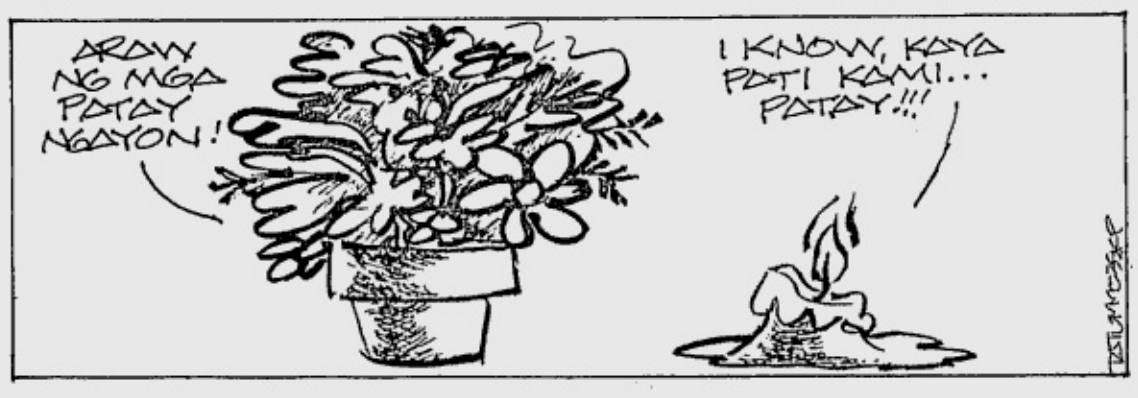


'Playing in the Fields' is a charmer

By Noelani Torre

WE'VE been hearing some of Barbie's Cradle's songs from their latest album for several months now, but we only managed to listen to the entire compilation quite recently. That's our loss, because "Playing in the Fields" (Warner Music) is a charmer of a record, something that we wish we'd discovered sooner.

Worthy follow-up

A worthy follow-up to their two previous releases, 1999's "Barbie's Cradle" and 2000's "Music from the Buffet Table," "Fields" is a refreshing collection of 10 tracks, all of which hit the right notes.

With "Playing in the Fields," the band shows us that they've got it together and that they are still going strong. The album continues in the mellow, "progressive folk" style that Barbie's Cradle has become famous for. Though short—less than 50 minutes all told—it won't leave you feeling unfulfilled.

The album pushes off with "All I Need (Is God)," which has been enjoying some airplay lately on music television. The buoyant song is an affirmation of faith.

More spiritual

Most of the tracks have strong spiritual connotations, a characteristic that makes the album more spiritual than their two earlier ones. But don't expect to hear hosannas and hallelujahs—the Barbie's Cradle style is subtler and a good deal less conventional than that. They don't preach, they're just honest about their beliefs.

Eight of the 10 songs are originals by Barbie, one is a collaborative effort by Barbie and bassist Rommel, and the other, "Limang Dipang Tao," is a classic Ryan Cayabyab piece.

Barbie's sweet singing voice lends itself well to this much-loved tune, and the band's light, upbeat hand on the bass and the drums emphasizes the song's youthful air and renews our appreciation of its vibrant quality.

Razorback's David Aguirre also makes an appearance in "Fields," specifically in the second and third tracks, "Bam Bam" and "Smile Smiley." On electric guitar, he adds aural complexity to the relaxed air of the latter.

One of our favorite tracks is "Pag-Ibig," a slow number grounded by drummer Garcia's soft but fast drumbeats. The song is about, what else, love.

Evocative lyrics

The lyrics are simple, but evocative: *"Simple lang ginagawang komplikado/ Di masakyan ng simpleng tao/ Wala na bang natitirang inosente/ Lahat-lahat tinamaan ng kuryente."* And the plaintive refrain: *"Sumisigaw, sumisigaw/ Baka sakaling may nakikinig/ Naghihintay, naghihintay/ Sa 'yong pag-ibig."*

Other tracks we like include "Dragonflies" and album closer "Independence Day." The former is a whimsical daydream-y piece with a breathy quality ending in a short waker-upper display of Rommel's bass playing talents.

"Independence Day" is the album's longest track at more than seven minutes. It's also one of the edgier pieces musically, if not the edgiest, with a harder bass line and stronger drums.

"Independence day is not for me," sings Barbie as angelically as always. "When I'm bound to you, I feel so free." Drummer Wendell Garcia tacks on a minute or so's worth of skillful drumming at the end. A fitting period to the solid piece of work that is "Playing in the Fields"!

Sharon Stone makes . . .

From page D1

of Dennis Quaid, who's out to discover unnerving secrets about their newly purchased house and its former owner (Stephen Dorff).

She's also currently filming Marek Kanievski's romantic drama, "A Different Loyalty," opposite Rupert Everett.

Eccentric lawyer

Her recent three-episode appearance as an eccentric lawyer on "The Practice" pleased her so much that she wants to return to the show, a decision that thrilled the production. She admitted that it gave her "much-needed revitalization."

She says, "Television is a different world. It takes a lot of stamina playing a lawyer. I felt a special kind of responsibility and thoughtfulness.

"And those hours! They're so challenging. You're learning the next day's lines while running down the hall shooting today's scenes!

"I was careful and extremely serious. I found a new kind of closeness as an actor, and a new kind of courage I didn't have before."

The divorce with Bronstein was ugly. He claimed that she was "rude and tough." Days after his filing for divorce, Sharon was spotted drinking with Oscar-winning actor Adrien Brody ("The Pianist") at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles.

Her recent run-in with death (she suffered from brain aneurysm two years ago) and marital woes have prompted the star to concentrate on her acting profession. She used her position as a juror at the Cannes Film Festival to let the world know she was available.

She recently sued MGM for canceling the production of a sequel to "Basic Instinct," the movie that catapulted her to the A-list, a project where she was poised to receive a hefty $14 million paycheck.

If you think Stone simply gets by on her beauty and spunk, think again.

Model

In her youth, Sharon Stone may have won the Ms Pennsylvania beauty pageant at 17, before she worked her way up to become a successful Ford model. But this beauty has an IQ more impressive than her Oscar-nominated turn in Martin Scorsese's "Casino"—154!

Her first brush with Hollywood was a walk-on part as the "pretty girl on the train" in Woody Allen's "Stardust Memories" (1980). She struggled through many B movies before she was cast in "Total Recall" with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

At 32, she posed for Playboy, which paved the way for her breakthrough role as the bisexual sociopath novelist, Catherine Tramell, in "Basic Instinct," with Michael Douglas.

STONE. Even when she was a child, she "asked adult questions and wanted adult answers."

Her "leg-uncrossing" interrogation scene has since become a classic in pop film history. It wasn't until she played a drug-crazed wife in "Casino" that she received acknowledgment for her acting ability from her movie industry peers.

Issues

Stone's articulate nature is evident in interviews. Here are her thoughts on some issues:

On her being smart: "I was, like, 40 years old at birth. When I wasn't even a year old, I spoke, I was potty-trained, I walked and talked. Then, I started school and drove everybody crazy because they realized I had popped out as an adult. I asked adult questions and wanted adult answers."

On her charm: "Any man in Hollywood will meet me if I want that. No—make that any man anywhere!"

On cosmetic surgeries: "I've had the same breasts my entire adult life."

On her Hollywood influence: "If you have a vagina and an attitude in this town, that's a lethal combination."

On relationships: "Women might be able to fake orgasms. But men can fake whole relationships!"

Finally, on being a woman: "I don't believe make-up and the right hairstyle alone can make a woman beautiful. The most radiant woman in the room is the one full of life and experience!"

Encounters with dead relatives

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

MY experiences with dead people have often involved my own relatives:

My grandparents on my mother's side are from Pagsanjan, Laguna. Every summer, I would spend my vacation with them. With *Lola*, I would assist in making preserved santol.

Dream

Lola died at age 85. She visited me in a dream the night she died. She was seated alone on a bamboo raft that was being swept by the current towards Magdapyo Falls, and I was waving goodbye to her. The next day, we were told she had peacefully passed away in the night.

Lola's husband, a chemist who lived most of his life in the USA, began visiting all his relatives here. *Lolo* Marcel, 84, came to our home in Los Baños and had lunch one Sunday, which he had never done before.

When I went back to my boarding house in Manila. I dreamed of *Lolo* Marcel planting a kiss on my cheek and saying goodbye. I woke up crying. He died that night of a liver ailment at PGH.

Moth

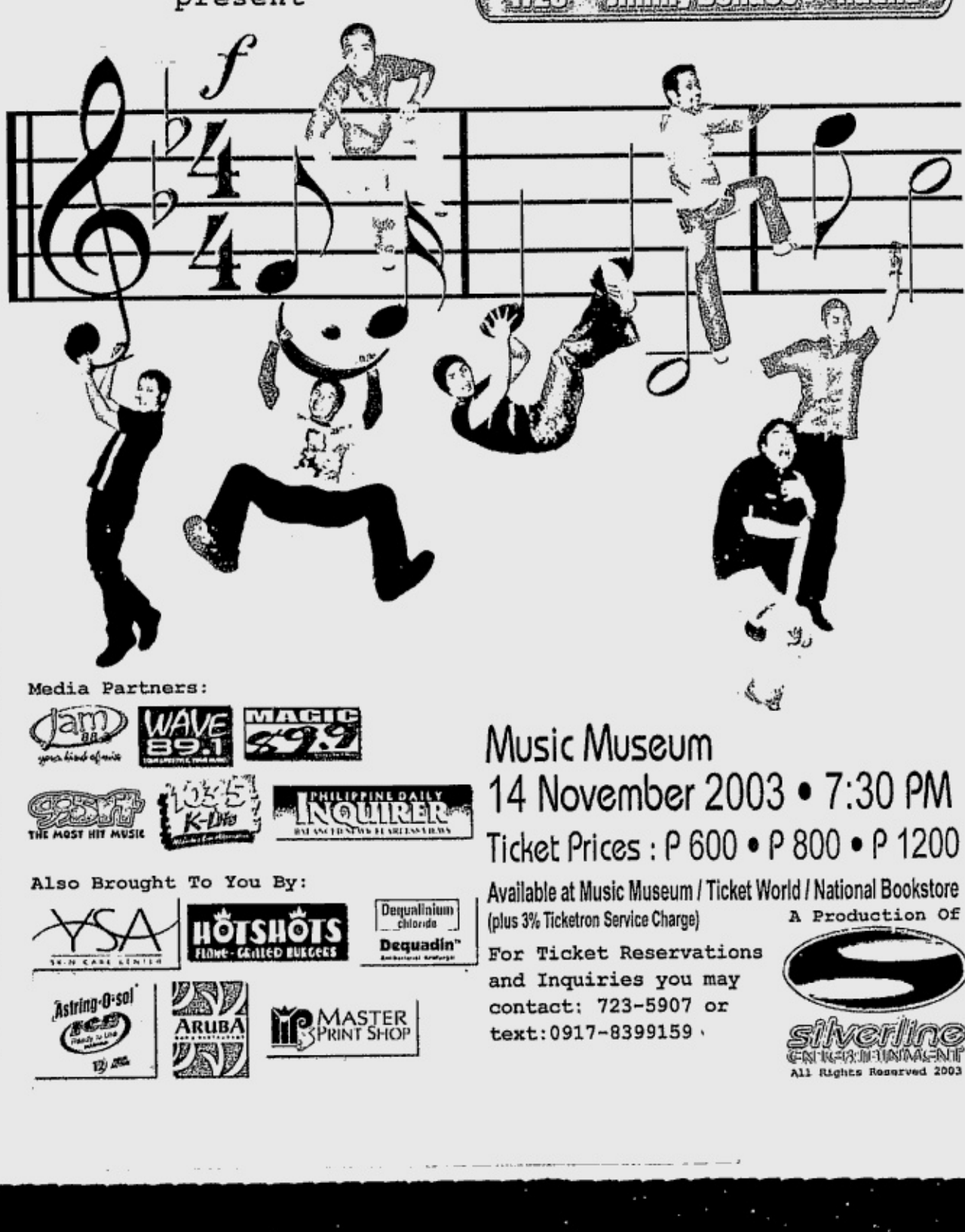
In November 1981, my father, 71, was at Manila Doctors, very ill from amoebiasis. It was so acute the doctors couldn't do anything. At his wake at the Immaculate Conception church in Los Baños, a moth was often seen on top of his coffin. The moth never left until the funeral, when it flew beneath the box.

Days after the funeral, a similar moth was often seen in our kitchen. My mother said: "That is the soul of your father, he is keeping us company."

When my mother died from an operation due to adhesion of the intestine, a wake was held in the same church in Los Baños. A pretty white butterfly was hovering around her casket. *(To be concluded)*

* * *

Mandy Navasero does product and people photography for advertisers, manufacturers and exporters. Call 522-1905, 522-5189 or (0916)706-0130.



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SATURDAY *Special*

Stars share their thoughts on life and death

MICHAEL V, Shaina Magdayao and Ricky Davao agree that life should be lived to the fullest.

By Jocelyn Valle

IT'S time once again to go to the cemetery to honor our dear, departed family members and friends with flowers, lighted candles and prayers.

Time for reflection

In keeping with this time for reflection, here's how Michael V, Ricky Davao, Shaina Magdayao, Rica Peralejo, Bernard Palanca and Joey Reyes view life and death:

Michael V: "I don't fear death, since I've realized what my role is in this world. I'm here to entertain and make people happy. That's why I constantly experiment. And you get more out of life if you treat every single moment as your last. You have to live life to the fullest!"

Ricky Davao: "Just enjoy life and don't think too much about death. When I became a parent, I realized that I didn't want to go early. I don't go to the cemetery on Nov. 1, hassle *kasi*. I just pray at home for my dead relatives."

Heaven

Shaina Magdayao: "I believe that everybody will go to heaven. If it's time to go, we can't do anything about it. I'm more afraid for my family. On All Saints' Day, *trabaho pa rin* for me."

Rica Peralejo: "I'm afraid to die because I don't know where it's going to take me. I don't know *kung pasado ako sa* heaven. But I trust God that He's going to put me in the best place.

"In the meantime, I'm enjoying life to the fullest. I don't go to the cemetery on All Saints' Day because I'd rather stay with my family at home."

Too short

Bernard Palanca: "Just live your life, it's too short to be wasted. If it's your time to go, you have to welcome it with a smile."

Joey Reyes: "Death is very much a part of life, everybody goes through that. Every since you were born, your whole life had been destined. It's what you do in between—from the moment of your birth to the day of your death—that matters."

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Francine Prieto is sensuality personified

By Andy P. Bais

TRUST Robbie Tan, Seiko Films' top honcho, to always come up with exciting discoveries to star in his movies. While other star-builders have a hard time turning their sexy star wannabes into box-office sensations or serious actresses, Robbie seems to have the invisible third eye needed for the job.

All smiles

This time around, Seiko's big boss is all smiles because he has found a potential jewel in Francine Prieto. What about Francine has merited Robbie's rapt attention?

"She easily stands out because of her aura, her flawless skin and beautiful face, and a body to die for," Robbie excitedly shares.

Indeed, Francine was a standout when she showed up for our interview. She is a towering presence at 5'10," with an enviable 36-26-36 frame. *"Lahat yan* original," she quips before we can ask about her physical assets' authenticity.

Francine is in the cast of "Liberated," Seiko's upcoming movie, which is inspired by the HBO TV series "Sex in the City." She plays Trixie, the best friend of Pauline, played by Diana Zubiri.

Leggy charmer

She is the exact opposite of Diana's character, the leggy charmer adds. "Kung ako loyal *sa isang* guy, *si* Diana *papalit-palit.* We're all liberated in certain ways in this movie—*sa pananamit, panalita* and in our views. I can do anything with my boyfriend, but only up to a point. I still believe in sex *after* marriage."

Karma

How close is her role to her real self? *"Parang ako, pag nagmamahal,* stick to one. Otherwise, *sakit sa ulo yan,* and I believe in *karma,"* she says, her sloe eyes flashing.

As in most of Seiko's films, steamy love scenes are *de rigueur* here, and Francine has a number of them with Christian. "I couldn't have done them with confidence *kung wala yung* sensuality workshop that we undertook before we shot the film," she relates.

The latest Seiko talent used to be child star Ana Marie Falcon, and even headlined the Channel 5 soap, "Criselda," when she was 10 years old.

Offers

When she turned 15, there were offers for her to go sexy but she declined. *"Napakabata ko pa kasi noon at talagang hindi ko pa kaya,"* she reflects.

So why did she finally accept Robbie's offer? "At 21, I think I'm old enough and ready to face the sexy challenge. Ever since *naman,* I really wanted to be in the movies. So, *kung sa pagpapasexy ako makikilala,* that's fine with me *basta hindi lang ako magiging* exploited," she reasons out.

PRIETO. Classily sexy standout.

Sharon and Pops play more mature roles

By Nestor U. Torre

WE appreciate the change of image that Sharon Cuneta and Pops Fernandez have daringly effected this year. After many seasons of playing it cute and young to keep their fans happy, they have finally chosen to portray older and less escapist characters in their new starrers.

Wake

In her Metro filmfest entry, "Crying Ladies," Sharon is cast as a down-on-her-luck woman who sidelines as a professional mourner in Chinatown, crying for a fee at the wake of a Chinese businessman.

Sharon's character is streets-mart—a hustler and gambler who is even briefly jailed for *estafa.* She dreams of a better life to regain custody of her young son.

This is a big departure from Sharon's past roles, many of which have been of wellborn characters living elegant lives in beautiful mansions.

Those characters made her popular with moviegoers because they promised empathetic escape, and eternal youth and beauty. In "Crying Ladies," Sharon plays an older and much less perfect person. That should result in reality-based rather than escapist empathy, and that's all to the good.

CUNETA. Plays a hustler, gambler and professional mourner.

FERNANDEZ. Cast as the mother of a teenage girl in new GMA-7 soap.

Cute and youthful

For her part, Pops Fernandez, another actress-singer who has been playing it cute and youthful into her late 30s, has agreed to play the blind mother of a teenage girl in her new soap.

This too is a far cry from Pops' earlier youthful and with-it projection, which has included her being paired with leading men younger than she is.

Pops looks more comfortable in her new role, because she doesn't have to work so hard trying to appear like she's still in her early or mid-20s. Instead, she can now concentrate on delivering a good performance, and that's the right focus for a performer's creative energies.

We don't mean to say that Pops has to keep playing mother roles from here on in. There are many kinds of "maturing women" characters, and they don't have to be old and dowdy.

The point is that, as they mature, popular actresses shouldn't have to worry so much about looking young, because it's a struggle that, ultimately, nobody can win—even with facelifts, fantastic lighting and youthening camera filters!

After a star becomes really popular, as both Sharon and Pops have, their fans should allow them to play increasingly mature roles, and not require them to portray the same youthful characters they essayed more than a decade ago.

Unfair

After all, the fans themselves have aged, so it's unfair of them to demand that their favorite stars remain eternally beautiful and youthful!

Now that Pops and Sharon have opted to play more mature and less escapist characters, we trust that their fans will grew up and mature with them, and continue to support their new and more complex portrayals in TV-film seasons to come.

We hope, too, that these stars' example will prompt other maturing stars to play characters that are closer to their real age, and with greater pertinence to the here and now. That way, local productions can become more relevant to the way things really are, and we can concern ourselves with aspects more significant than just a performer's eternally youthful looks.

'VAGINA MONOLOGUES' IN SINGAPORE

Empowering Filipino artists everywhere

By Rito P. Asilo

SINGAPORE—After more than a hundred performances of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" in the Philippines, you'd think you would have learned to relax. But the play's current run at the YMS Theater on Waterloo st. in Singapore is no different from those staged by the New Voice Company in Hong Kong, Manila, Cebu, Dumaguete or Davao. You don't know what to expect—and that's what makes it exciting!

Controversial material

Directing the controversial material in a country like Singapore is an initially unnerving but ultimately rewarding experience.

I arrived in Singapore before my actresses (Monique Wilson, Tami Monsod and Jenny Jamora) and NVC producer Rossana Abueva, flew in.

WILSON. Mentor and friend.

Singapore is artist-friendly, an impression that you don't get in some cities in the Philippines.

When we opened last Tuesday, we wondered what the audience would be like. At crunch time, doubts always come to the fore. But I was confident I had a great cast.

Career

Monique is one of two mentor-friends (the first being NUT, my director in the hugely popular "Magnificat"), who encouraged me to pursue a career in the theater. Monique tapped me to direct and translate the Filipino version of TVM in 2001.

A great deal of a TVM run's success is always attributed to the right combination of actresses—and you couldn't get any better than the trio I have in Singapore right now!

Opening night

On opening night, the audience, mostly made up of expats and English-speaking locals, roared with laughter and sniffled with empathy as they listened to women's stories.

We knew we empowered more than just the men and women who came to the show—we also brought pride to Filipino artists everywhere!

("The Vagina Monologues" will be in Tokyo, Japan, from June 23 to July 3, 2004, at Theater V.)

Highest goal of human life

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WHAT can you achieve without money? A lot. A person can be a devotee and lover of the Supreme Person, and achieve the highest goal of human life—God-realization—by surrendering himself to the Supreme Lord.

Illusion

We live in a society where we have been conditioned to think that money makes things happen. So, most people work very hard to accumulate it. We think we're happy, but it's a big illusion, because material possessions and relationships are eventually ruined or lost.

The most secure and successful personalities have no money, and yet they take care of the greatest number of people and give them the highest education and gift: love for the Supremely Lovable.

We all have energy to work for the pleasure of God. We can offer a flower to the Supreme Lord with love and He will be very pleased.

Service

Of course, if we have money and facilities we can use them in God's service, and he will accept that, too. The main point is that the Supreme Person is asking for our hearts—our love and devotion. Money is never a requirement to approach the Supreme Person.

It can even make people feel arrogant and independent of God, losing sight of the essential—our eternal relationship with our Supreme Father, and brotherhood with all of God's children.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV 1 - NOV 7

CH	7	4	5	7	9	23	31	49	13
	6:00 Meteor Garden 6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:30 Home Along da Airport 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Blockbuster Cinema 12:00 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	5:00 PBA Provincial Game 7:00 Kitscetera 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 BYK 101 10:00 Travel 10:30 Global Family Series 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 El News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanalaym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema *Kaparnilya: ABS-CBN at 50 (Part II)* 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 PBA First Filipino cup 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Concert of Various Artist	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup atpb. 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 May Puso ang Balas 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 A Second Look	6:00 PBA First Filipino cup 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Bachelor 10:30 Digital Tour	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 El Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 El Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on El
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Starstruck 8:10 Twin Hearts 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 OPTV	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 Global Family Series 7:00 Japan Video Topics 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Birds of Prey 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 El News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Insider 11:30 Pipol	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Campus TV 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Wedding Works 11:00 Bugs	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Endless Love 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 All Together Now 11:00 Saksi 11:30 The Probe Team	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 Single Girls 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sports in Focus 11:00 RTV, Our Rhythm, Our Reality	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 US Tennis Open 8:00 Global Family Series 9:00 Japan Video Topics 10:00 Travel 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Up Close and Personal	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 El News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 Whattamen 10:00 Klasmeyts 11:00 Insider 11:30 Special Assignment	5:00 PBA First Filipino cup 10:00 MMDA on The Road 11:00 Magbuhay Professional 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Starstruck 8:10 Twin Hearts 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Nuts Entertainment 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Malcolm in the Middle 7:30 Still Standing 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Everwood 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Girls Behaving Badly 11:00 Cerge for Truth	5:00 PBA First Filipino Cup 10:00 Breaking Barriers 10:30 IBC News Tonite	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 CSI 9:00 Alias 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 El News Live 7:00 El Features 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Insider 11:30 Dong Puno Live	6:00 The Working President 7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Working 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Starstruck 8:10 Twin Hearts 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Magpakailanman 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Debate	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Baby Bob 7:30 Sabrina 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Crossing Jordan 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Hidden Hills 11:00 Police Hour	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 Global Family Series 8:00 Phil. Pro Boxing League 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 CelebrityDotCom 10:30 IBC News Tonite	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Insider 11:30 Private I	5:00 PBA First Filipino cup 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Fancy Lala 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Starstruck 8:10 Twin Hearts 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Bubble Gang 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Emergency	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 The Pretender 8:00 Just for Laffs 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 Dead Zone 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA First Filipino Cup 10:00 Entrepinoy 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 GMA The Working President	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 X-Men 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Thieves 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 El News Live 7:00 El Features 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On

'Riot Act' showcases a quieter and more mature Pearl Jam

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

PEARL Jam has always been contrary. When they were being labeled as washed-out rock stars a few years ago, the band made a cover of the 1960s classic "Last Kiss" for fan club members. The song hit the radio and galvanized the attention of a boy band-loving audience.

"It's the biggest song we ever had on radio, and it wasn't even for sale," said Vedder in an interview. "That's much more exciting and magical than accomplishing some successful marketing plan."

Equally surprised

They were equally surprised when their latest album, "Riot Act," nabbed the No. 5 spot on the Billboard 200 album chart upon its release.

"I'm amazed that people still want to listen to us," said guitarist Mike McCready. "With all the other music out there and the shifting times, I'm surprised that people still consider us relevant. I hear us on classic rock radio stations and I go, 'Oh, my God, we're getting old! I'm just grateful to still be around."

This focus on the music and not on fame and fortune is not as widespread as we'd like to believe, and it imbues the newest Pearl Jam album with a no-holds-barred attitude that results in several experimental tracks and an exploration of the band's more troubled, conflicted psyche.

PEARL JAM. The "contrary" band focuses on the music, not on fame and fortune.

In "Love Boat Captain," for example (one of our favorite tracks), the feeling swings from pessimistic to optimistic—from "First comes love, then comes pain" to a re-echoing of the Beatles' "Love is all you need, all you need is love." And Vedder sings it like he means it, too.

Additional musicians

With Vedder on vocals, McCready and Stone Gossard on guitars, Jeff Ament on bass and Matt Cameron on drums and percussion, along with additional musicians Boom Gaspar and Adam Kasper on keyboards, "Riot Act" showcases Pearl Jam's quieter, more mature sound.

Though more subdued than 1991's "Ten," the album is nonetheless powerful and thought-provoking, especially since the band chose to expand its themes to focus on less-personal issues, such as politics and the dangers of apathy.

This doesn't mean that the personal is abandoned altogether. In fact, the album's pivotal song, with its quirky waltzing rhythm, "I Am Mine," is potent self-assertion—"I know I was born and I know that I'll die. The in-between is mine/ I am mine."

But then, there's also "Bushleaguer," which relays the band's very definite views on their president: "He's not a leader/ He's a Texas leaguer," as well as "Arc," a minute-long wordless a capella.

With "Riot Act," Pearl Jam reminds us why they've lasted for so long.

Paces offers classes starting Nov. 3

THE PHILIPPINE Academic Center for Enrichment and Self-Actualization (Paces) sets the standard in providing quality music education through its Music Academy—a center where students can develop and improve not just their skill in music, but their knowledge of its structures, as well.

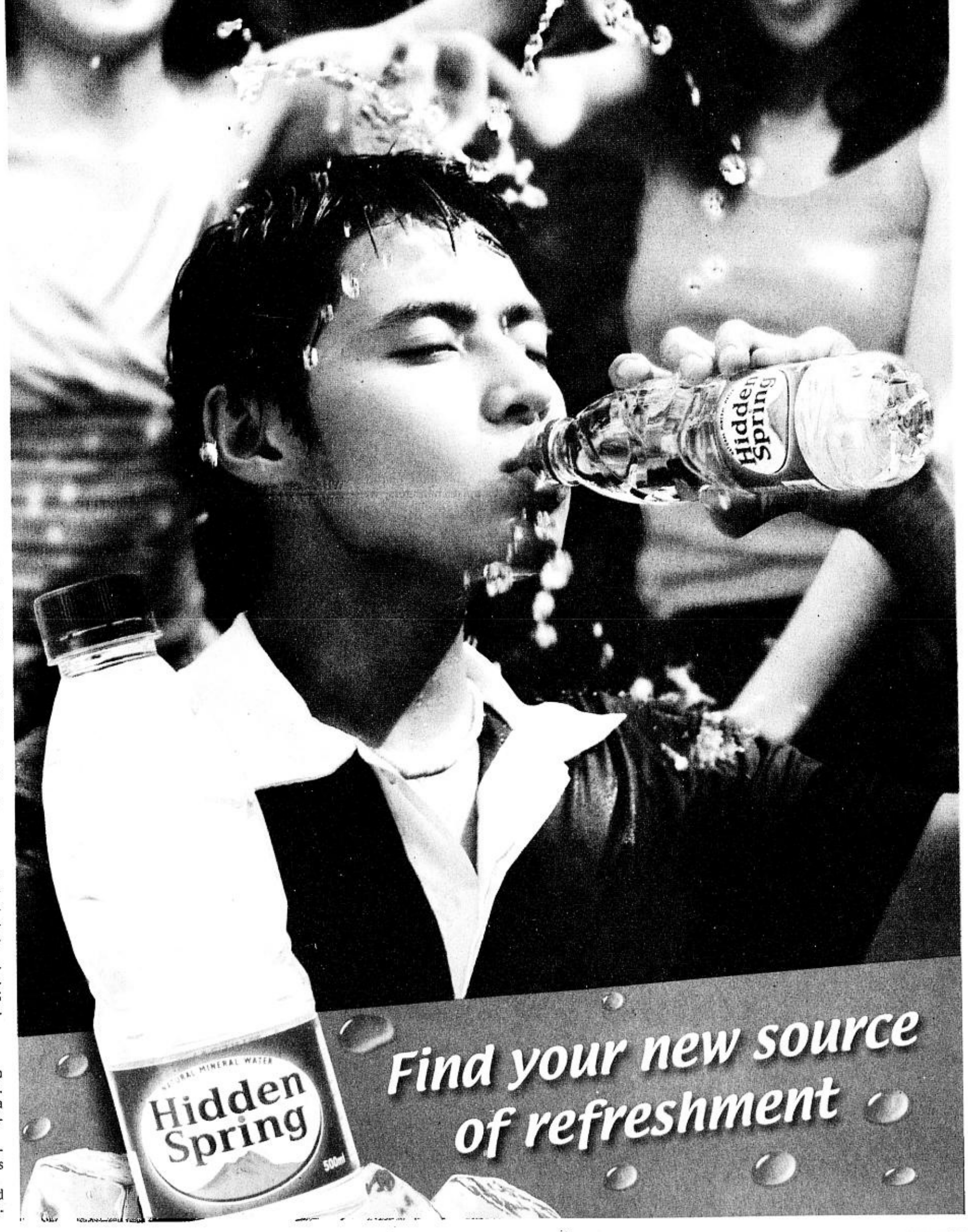
It will offer lessons in voice, piano, guitar, keyboard, drums, violin and wind instruments starting Nov. 3 at its Greenhills branch, and on Nov. 5 at its Ortigas branch (at Unit 207 AIC Gold Tower, Emerald ave. corner Garnet rd.).

Advanced curriculum

The Academy offers an advanced curriculum that emphasizes theory *and* hands-on learning. The curriculum was specially developed by a team of experts to facilitate students' understanding and appreciation of music.

The academy uses top of the line musical equipment in all its classes. Teachers from the country's most reputable conservatories facilitate the classes.

The Academy will open branches in Makati and Escolta before the year ends. Call 633-6919, 631-3836 or 683-0726.



New albums offer wide range of songs

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FIRST local acoustic compilation, "Tunog Acoustic," features 14 of the best unwired hits. Nina interprets her big hit, "Jealous," while Paolo Santos comes up with a memorable "Moonlight Over Paris."

Laid-back cuts

Other laid-back cuts include Freestyle's "Slow," Side A's "Forevermore," True Faith's "Wag Na Lang Kaya," Barbie's Cradle's "Tabing Ilog," and I Axe's "Ako's sa Iyo, Ika'y sa Akin."

Adding more sparkle to the compilation album are Noel Cabangon with "Kanlungan," "Victoria's "I Love You," Kitchie Nadal's "Run," Rannie Raymundo's "Hanggang Kailan," Arstrong's "Benefit of the Doubt" and Artstart's "Misty Glass Window."

From Sting comes "Sacred Love," with songs written after 9/11, vivifying themes of love and religion. Featured as special guests are Mary J. Blige in "Whenever I Say Your Name," Anoushka Shankar in "The Book of My Life," and Vicente Amigo in the carrier single, "Send Your Love."

STING. Sings about love and religion.

Having been produced during the agonizing build-up to the Iraq war, the album embodies Sting's message: "Love can save the day."

Title track

On the exuberant title track, Sting sings: "Every man, every woman; Every race, every nation, It all comes down to this:/ Scared Love." And, on the carrier single, "Send Your Love," he evokes a vision of human salvation. Sure hope people are listening!

For his part, David Bowie comes on strong with his latest album, "Reality." The potent, eclectic songs in this new compilation underscore his vitality as a cutting-edge artist.

The release of the album coincides with the start of Bowie's latest roadshow, billed as "A Reality Tour." Launched last Oct. 7, it is scheduled to play to more than one million people in 17 countries, over a seven-month period.

SANTOS. Memorable rendition.

Nine Bowie originals can be heard on "Reality," plus two covers: Jonathan Richman's "Pablo Picasso" and George Harrison's "Try Some, Buy Some," one of the lesser-known compositions by the late Beatle.

Cuts include "New Killer Star," "Never Get Old," "Fall Dog Bombs the Moon," "She'll Drive the Big Car," and the title track, "Reality."

BOWIE. Cutting-edge artist.

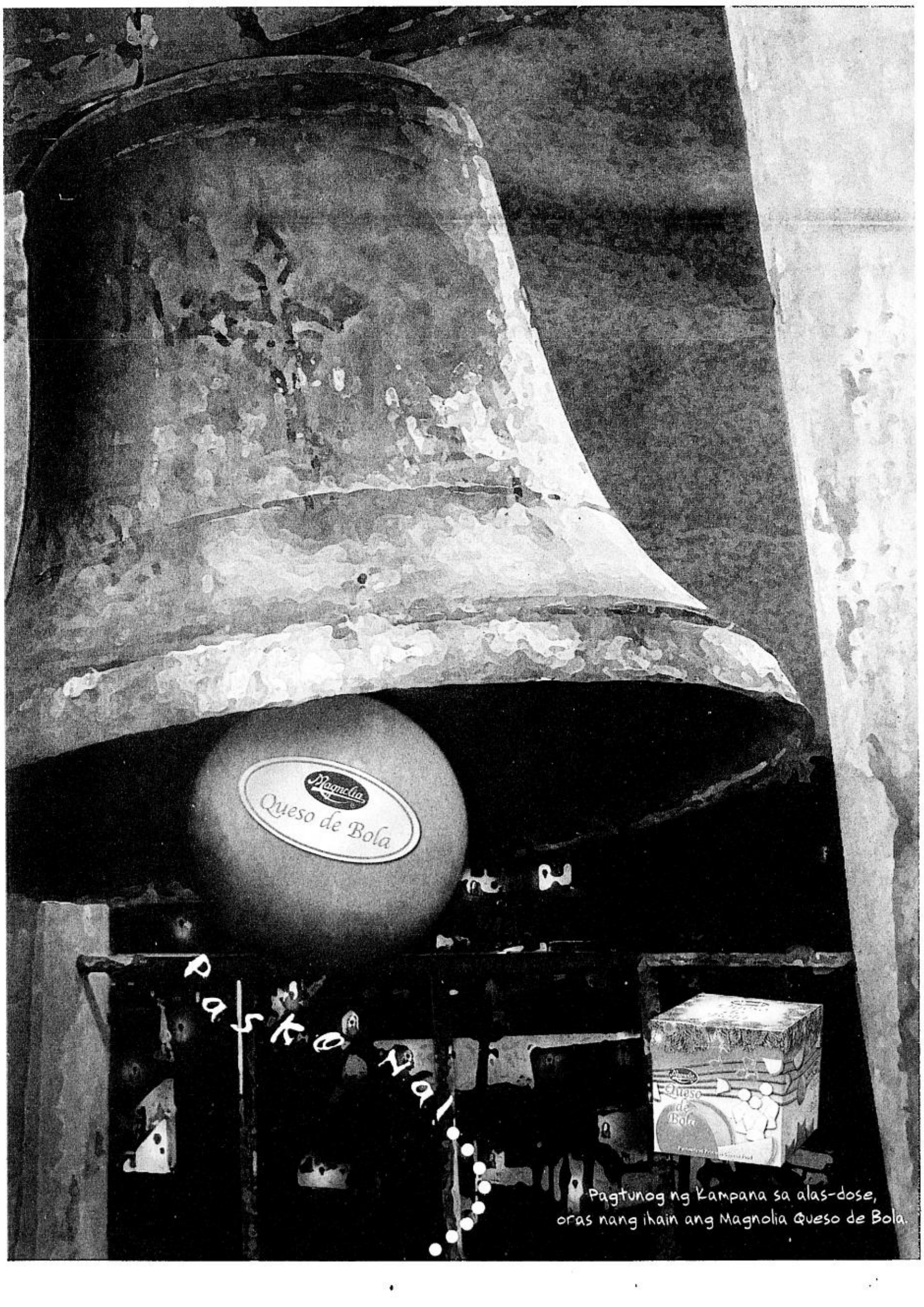
Advance word

Advance word is good: Vanity Fair's Lisa Robinson cites the album's "great new songs," and Jane's Stephanie Trong describes "Reality" as a "beautiful, rocking and rich new album."

Incidentally, Bowie recently made history with the biggest live and interactive music satellite event staged to date: The special concert was beamed via satellite last September from London's Riverside Studios simultaneously to 50,000 fans in 86 cinemas in 26 countries around the world, from Hong Kong to Helsinki. In Paris alone, there were 14 screens dedicated to the show.

The live performance of Bowie's "Reality" album was followed by an interactive question and answer session with fans in cinemas in London, Paris, Berlin, Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Brussels and Milan.

—The face of "live "performance tomorrow—and David Bowie is showing the way!



2ND SPANISH FILMFEST

Classy lineup of intelligent, commercially viable films

By Rito P. Asilo

(Conclusion)

JOAQUIN Oristrell's "Sin Verguenza" (Without Shame) is a witty satire that lampoons the egocentric world of the theater and its actors. With a powerhouse cast, this irresistible comedy follows what transpires when an acting teacher comes across a script that sounds as if it was based on her unforgettable 17-hour fling with a now-famous director 21 years ago. The film is dedicated to the 4,500 estimated professional actors in Spain.

Paying homage

If "Sin Verguenza" doesn't hook you, Alex De Iglesia's "La Comunidad" (Common Wealth) should. Paying homage to Jean-Pierre Jeunet's "Delicatessen" and Danny Boyle's "Shallow Grave," this black comedy is about a fortysomething real estate agent (the brilliant Carmen Maura) who discovers a dead man's 300 million pesetas in a Madrid tenement building populated by tenants who have been plotting to get the money for themselves.

Shot in a florid, grandiose style reminiscent of Hitchcock, this deliriously inventive thriller is a must-see production, judging from how much fun was had by everyone at its screening.

After the popularity of his festival staples, "Perdita Durango," "Accion Mutante" and "The Day of the Beast," De Iglesia provides further proof that he deserves the assignation ("the new Almodovar") bestowed on him by the world cinema community.

Alejandro Amenabar's "Tesis" was last year's runaway hit. It is still disconcerting to watch on second viewing.

Melodramatic stereotyping

This year, debuting director Achero Manas' "El Bola" (Pellet) provides "the willies." If you have read David Pelzer's novel, "A Child Called It," this might as well be its film adaptation. Dealing with issues of cruelty and child abuse, this film is gritty and painful to watch, but it avoids the melodramatic stereotyping of characters typical in films with similar themes.

As 12-year-old Juan Jose Ballesta essays the title role, he comes up with a truly remarkable performance. And Director Manas' work is comparable to British auteur Ken Loach's.

Bruno Lazaro Pacheco's "It's For You" focuses on an unusual long-distance love affair between a Toronto student and his Barcelona muse. The film uses a video camera whose lens becomes the omnipresent witness to the protagonist's obsession.

The immediacy of the narrative lends a sense of voyeurism, but provides an uncompromising perspective on the nature of such relationships. The film's young director flew in from Toronto for a short, post-screening Q and A.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Super

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

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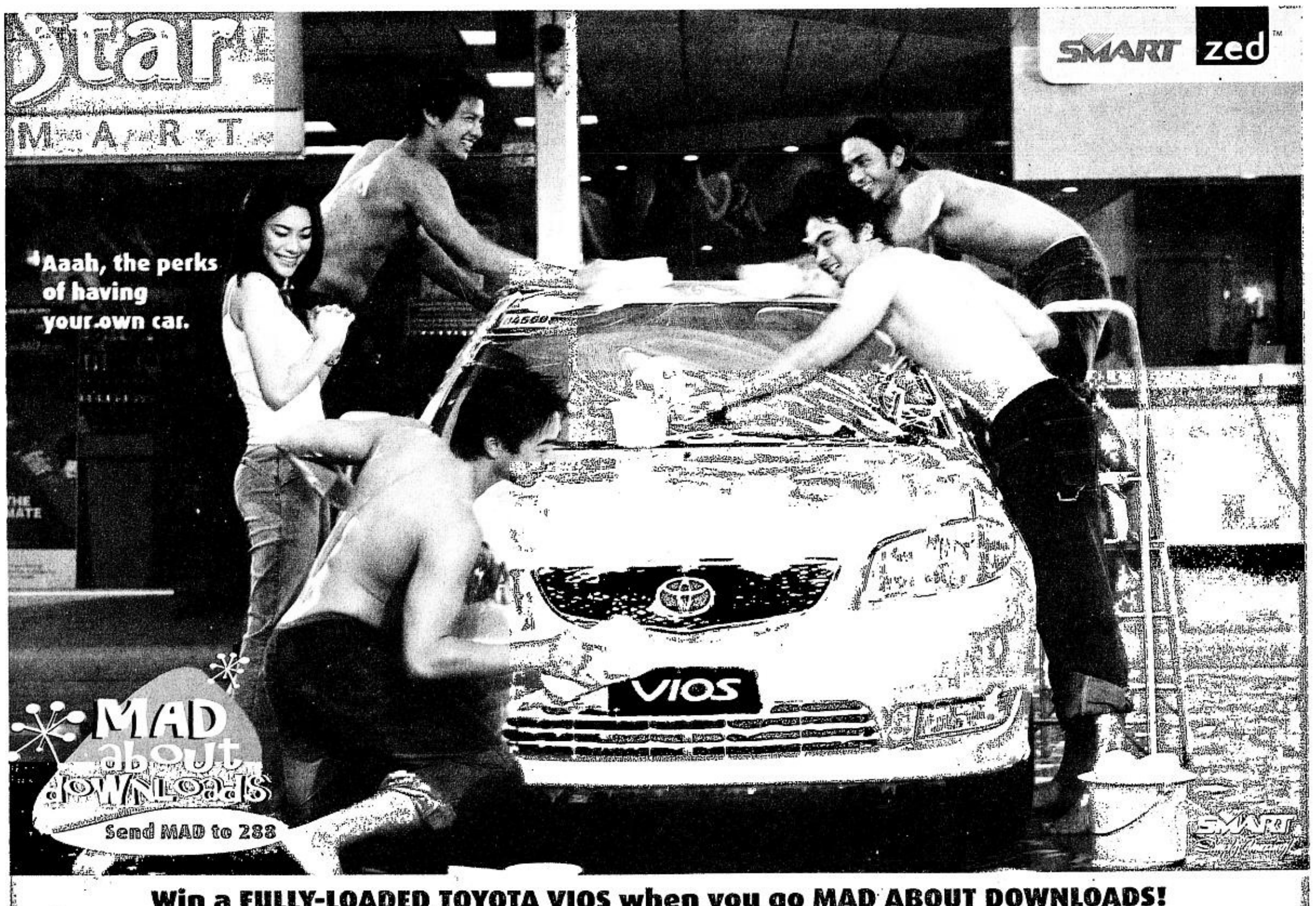

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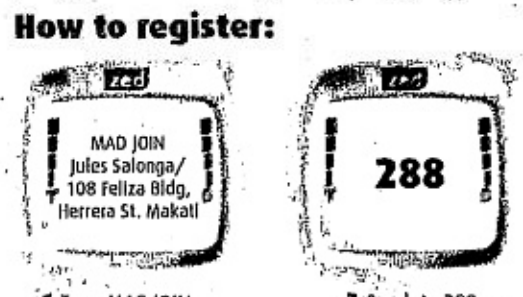

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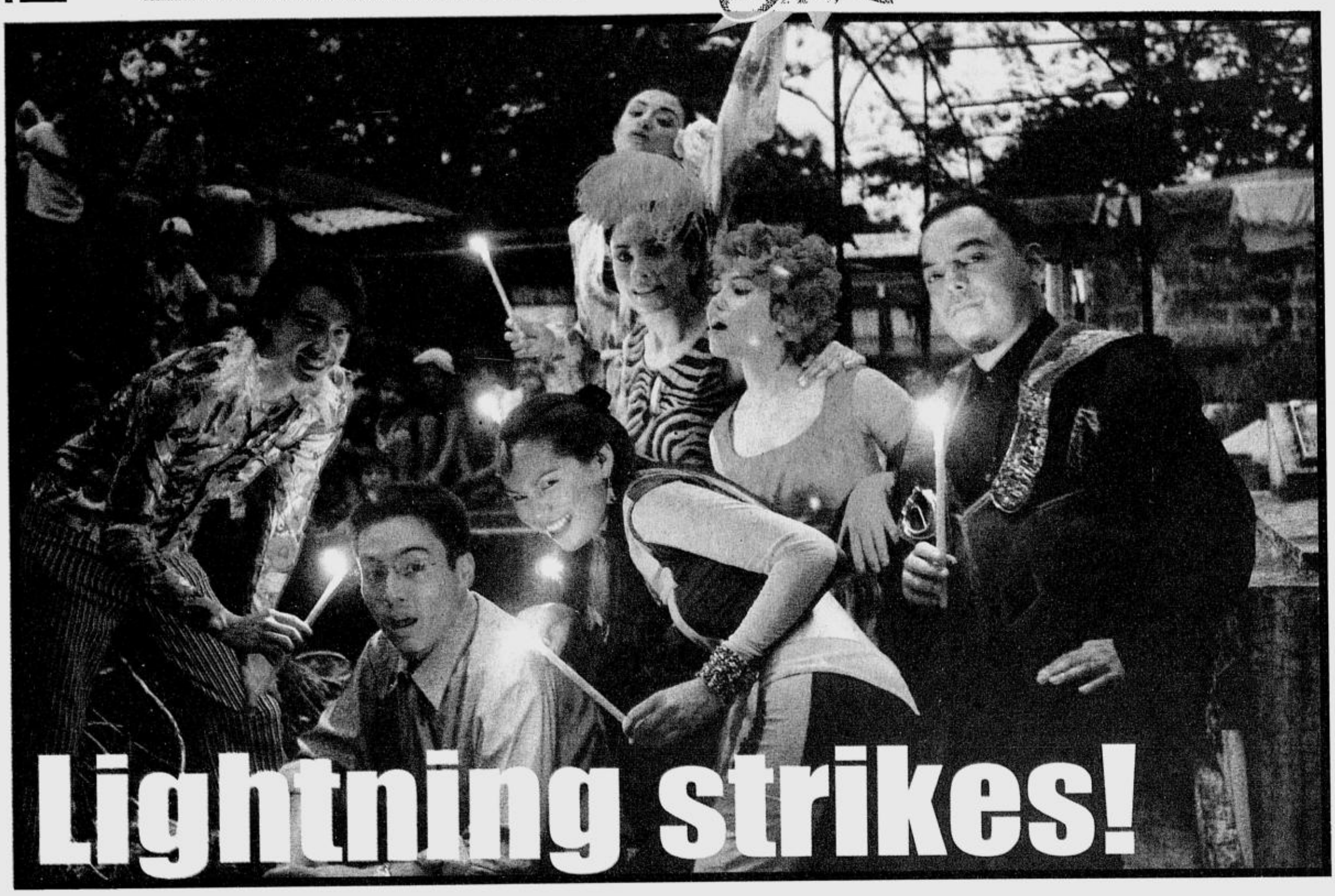


Lightning strikes!

WHEN a human being is born, six (and only six) deities are assigned to facilitate his soul's journey to enlightenment or, in some cases, disenchantment. At any given moment—even in rallies, parties and family reunions—each mortal interacts with no more than the six divinities tasked to take on different characters in his life. This explains the futility of board meetings and government committees with more than seven people. And if you ever wondered why you can never seem to get your mother-in-law and your husband in the same room, it's probably because these "people" are played by the same deity.

So begins "Kidlat! The Game of Divine Intervention," where Tol, the god who controls the Skyway between heaven and earth, showcases a human being and the gods and goddesses assigned to him. Other deities, played by the audience, are invited to express their altruistic or sadistic tendencies as they play with the mortal contestant and take control of the unfolding of his career and love life through their suggestions. With a spontaneous storyline, numerous plot twists, and endless possibilities, it's a play you can see over and over and over again!

"Kidlat!" is presented by Evolver, led by some of the nutcases who produced "Lightning Rod of the Gods" in 1999 under 420 Productions. "Lightning Rod" created interest in the long-form, improvisational, and interactive comedy being the first of its kind in Manila. "Lightning Rod" has since evolved into "Kidlat!" which promises more audience control and more improvisational comedy. Through "Kidlat!" the producers aim to build a pop theatre culture and show that theatre, with advantage of being performed live, can be just as modern and engaging as any other medium.

Written and directed by Chad Rialp, "Kidlat!" features Carlos Celdran, David Esteban, Vannie Liwanag, Monica Llamas, Gela Laurel, Caco Tirona, and Dona Tumacder, with guest performances by stand-up comedians Mike Unson and Tim Tayag. Costumes are styled by Rajo Laurel and Ria Limjap. Music is provided by Liquid Jane and features the song "Improvise," by the homegrown acid jazz band Sound.

"Kidlat!" opened to a full house last Wednesday at the Comfort Room. It will run in Sanctum Unmasct, Intramuros on Friday, Nov. 7; and in Rock Radio Café, Alabang, on Friday, Nov. 14. For details and private bookings, please log on to www.trip.ph/kidlat, or call 0922-8007365.

TOMBSTONED

THE GRAVEYARD shift

The Life of Death

For once, yes, on just this one day in the whole year, I can say: 'I want to be a cyberspace kitten from Ursa Major,' or 'a moldy tuna sandwich from my brother's closet.'

ONE night about two years ago, I stood on a dimly lit street beside an Indian Princess and Bin Laden. While sucking our lives away on cigarettes, a Tibetan Buddhist monk driving a black sedan pulled up beside us along with two Can Can dancers from the Moulin Rouge.

No, this wasn't a hallucinogen-induced dream I was having, and neither is this an anecdote about my posse of delusional escapees from the mental asylum. It was a scene from one of my favorite nights out of all the 365 nights in the year: Halloween.

I must confess that I get more exhilarated over this dark day than I do over the red-and-green-painted calendar date of December 25. It's not because I'm a caustic "bah humbug"-snarling Scroogette who delights in telling kids that Santa Claus doesn't exist (because he still does to me). I am crazy about Halloween because for once in the year, the city turns on its head, and it's actually corny to be ordinary. On this night, reality gives way to surreality as past and present collide, the dead and alive mingle over a few Zombies, and saints and sinners happily converge on an earthly plane.

For once, I actually have an answer to that winner-take-all existential question: "What do you want to be?" I don't need to justify my current state of affairs en route to some lofty life's goal. I don't have to say, "I want to be rich so I've been toiling away 16 hours a day in my *bodega* of a cubicle, but I tell you, those sunsets from behind tinted glass are really nifty." Or, swinging over to the other side of the pendulum, "I want to be free so I've been working on my tan. Sure, I'm unemployed but it's by choice, because I don't want to deal with the toxicity of corporate culture. By the way, can I borrow some money?"

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

For once, yes, on just this one day in the year, I can say: "I want to be a cyberspace kitten from Ursa Major" or "a moldy tuna sandwich from my brother's closet" or "a slutty mermaid from Atlantis" or even "an honest congressman" and no one will shoot me bewildered looks.

Suspension of disbelief

It's that sort of suspension of disbelief that I live for. In fact, the tomfoolery of Halloween sometimes makes more sense to me than all that masquerading going on in a world where fiction fraternizes way too closely with fact; where Da King and The Terminator play chief; and where slimy little devils play God. Indeed, we need to be a little silly once in a while just to make sense of it all. Seal was right on when he sang, "We're never gonna survive unless we get a little crazy."

Yet madness, like truth, is relative. I recall a time some years back when the height of dementia was reached in my Halloween-crazy little 'hood. On that year, my overzealous parish and its small inner circle of closed-minded disciples woke up one morning and decided that Halloween was an evil that needed to be snuffed out, like a terrorist in the caves of Afghanistan. They denounced Halloween as being rooted in pagan tradition (true), and therefore celebrating it would be reviving the idolatrous cult (false). I wondered whether they realized that a lot of our own church customs are likewise a collage of ancient pagan traditions.

For one, the Christian symbol of Icthus, or the fish, traces its origins to pagan sacred geometry; the round shape of the Holy Eucharist traces back to the Egyptian symbol of the sun, in honor of Osiris. Heck, even Easter was begun by ancient Germanic and Anglo-Saxon tribes honoring the rising sun at the arrival of spring.

Our church dissuaded kids from dressing up as Sabrina and Casper, and even from saying, "Trick or treat!" Instead, they campaigned for kids to dress up as their favorite saints, and to say "Happy Holy-ween!" as they knocked on doors and were rewarded, I imagined, with bags and bags of yummy white wafers. That little edict caused quite a stir that divided our community. Several punk-ass kids managed to find a loophole in the decree, and came as martyred saints and beheaded John the Baptists. Thank God the lunacy didn't carry over to the next year.

It did manage to resurrect a few years later, when Harry Potter came to life in the hearts and minds of kids all over the world. I was utterly confounded when I found out that the same closed minds were once again attempting to invade kids' reading shelves. It incited *déjà vu* in me, their offensive thesis being that anything involving wizards, witches and any kind of behavior disparate of the mundane, linear world were seeds that the devil planted in children's souls. I truly believe that the people who cooked up that crazy verdict were Muggles who never even read past the cover. I think true evil is called forth when anyone attempts to extinguish the magic in a child's imagination, to fast-forward kids into the petty reality of adults who love to create conflict over differences in creed. It is a requiem for the Catcher in the rye.

Wonder Lust

For me, Halloween's essence is innocence. It's a call back for all of us to resuscitate the childlike wonder within us that becomes dormant once we're forced to face issues of credit card bills, unpaid rent and David Hasselhoff's success. So it's absolutely okay to be pushing 30 and worrying whether your Divisoria-purchased white feathers would stick to your styrofoam wings using Elmer's glue. We are free to be silly, playful, and to forget the travails of a channel-switching existence. We are encouraged to welcome the spirit of generosity as we trade with the currency of candy. We can be absolutely anyone or anything we want to be, which is the magic of it all.

As for me, a little memento from a Halloween past always serves as a reminder of the unpredictability of life. It's a photo of me dressed as a genie of the lamp, together with my pals Morticia Addams, Raggedy Anne and Hatsumomo the geisha. Yet it's not the bizarre fellowship in that photo that I dwell on; rather, I still see the person who took the picture. It was my father, who gamely joined us in our little dress-up tradition before we headed out to join the Halloween fricassée.

That picture was the last one he took of me before he passed away, two months later. I still keep that photo by my bed, not as a reminder of the cruel irony of death, but rather as a memoir of the enchantment for life. For me, it is a snapshot of a shared innocence, a celebration of being truly alive in spite of the looming, mysterious horizon of the ever after.

(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

SWAK!

by Lex

Showbiz Limbo

YOU'RE not a showbiz somebody until you've been given a title.

Gary V. is "Mr. Pure Energy", Martin and Pops are "The Concert King and Queen", and Regine is "The Songbird of Asia."

I have put together my own who's hot and who's not list, in the process baptizing these industry mainstays with my own brand of titles.

Rising Stars

These are the young ones on the brink of superstardom, the next generation out to conquer the world—well, the showbiz world at least. And they actually have something that has been proven *not* to be a requirement in the local entertainment industry: talent.

Some stars are skyrocketing while others are nosediving. Who's in, out, and over in the entertainment world?

Parokya Ni Edgar: Their unique brand of music embodies Pinoy humor at its best. *"Hoy, hoy, hoy"*.... is hot, hot, hot!

Nina: Sexy, sultry, scorching hot vixen with a vocal range second to none.

Nyoy Volante: He strokes his guitar like he was making love to the girl of his dreams.

Bayani Agbayani: *Ocho-ocho*ing his way into the *masa's* heart.

Ashley: Nominated as Best New Artist in the 2003 Awit Awards for her *"Tamis Ng Unang Halik,"* this girl is definitely someone to watch.

Falling Stars

Once at the head of the pack, these five have started to lag behind in the parade.

Kris Aquino: The girl who cried wolf had everyone's attention. And then she retracted. What a complete waste of time.

Judy Ann Santos: She forgot to reinvent herself, a fatal flaw in the quest to keep the fans tuned in.

Assunta da Rossi: Destined for greatness till a little, rich congressman with a reputation for arrogance swept her of her feet.

Kristine Hermosa: Living proof that a pretty, *mestiza* face and nice smile are the only requirements for superstardom in this country.

Black Holes

Some showbiz denizens are beyond repair. No amount of repackaging or advertising budgets can save these poor souls.

Joey Marquez: His teary-eyed plea for forgiveness on nationwide television was a testimony to his lack of acting ability. The real message was apparent: "Please don't condemn me. *Tatakbo pa po ako sa eleksyon. Kawawa naman ako kung matalo.*"

Richard Gomez: Joey's buddy shares his penchant equally for politics as well as boxing, as proven by the fact that he just got into another fistfight (his third in a row) at the Star Olympics.

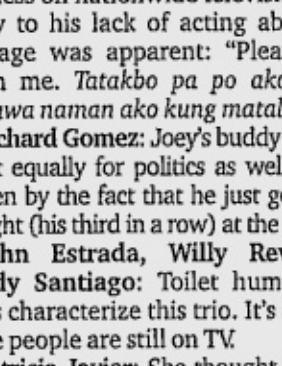
John Estrada, Willy Revillame, and Randy Santiago: Toilet humor and green jokes characterize this trio. It's a wonder why these people are still on TV.

Patricia Javier: She thought cavorting half-naked in her music video would distract people from the fact that she can't sing to save her life.

FPJ: His name alone strikes terror in the hearts of millions. Many predict a mass exodus of our most intelligent countrymen if he becomes president. Maybe his motto should be: "I have never held a public position in my life. I have absolutely no experience. But have no fear. I can help you laugh your poverty away."

Regardless of FPJ's victory or loss however, I myself will never leave this country. I figure, if we all give up and bolt, then we deserve whatever we get.

(For comments e-mail: swak@info.com.ph).



BAYANI Agbayani. *Ocho-ocho*ing his way into the *masa's* heart.

AFTERHOURS

Compiled by Adrian Cuenca

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 01:

Nuvo: Electrolounge with Scrambled Edge and Don Renato

Acquario: Erwin Edralin (deep & funky house)

Restaurant 12: The Lost Classics (nostalgia without the cheese) with Adrian Cuenca

Dreambar: Circo Loco with Manolet Dario (progressive house) and percussionist Fritz Barth

Wherelse?: R&B and Hip Hop

Tiananmen Bar and Resto: Couch Culture by Couch Lab (chill out, balearic)

Wasabi: Saturd80's, New wave and dance music from the era with DJ Luis and DJ Jojo

Olive: The Boiler Room with Nicky Jurado (hard dance), Owens Sun (progressive house) and Myk Tolentino (progressive, tech-house)

Fidel: Velvet Mafia with Cocoy Puyat (house) and Bingo Ang

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 04:

Temple: Goodlife Tuesdays with Steve Mills & Paolo Cabalfin (R&B)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 05:

Absinth: Smooth Wednesdays with Steve Mills (R&B, hip hop)

Bed, Malate: Friendster Eyeball Party with DJ Ann (house) & DJ Toy Armada

Flute: Johnny Walker presents: Walk on the House Side with DJ Patch (funky house)

Olive: Syrup with Lester Castillo (R&B) & guest DJs

Bora Bar: Manolet Dario (house, progressive house)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 06:

Temple: Yin Yang, a sonic fusion of R&B and House music with Kevin Ruiz.

Olive: Freeflow with Myk Tolentino & guest DJs

Azzurro: Plush Thursdays with Steve Mills (R&B)

Ice Vodka Bar: Groove Sanctuary with Elian Habayeb (New York deep house)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 07:

Restaurant 12: 12 after 12 with Chip de la Calzada (sexy, deep house and lounge)

The Louis Vuitton Launch Party, Greenbelt 4: Manolet Dario (house, progressive house)

Absinth: Electrodisco with Carlo Ching and Bong Garcia

Dreambar: Decadance with Boyet Almazan (80's and 90's)

Wasabi: Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills (R&B)

Acquario: Erwin Edralin (Deep & funky house).

Tiananmen Bar & Resto: Couch Culture by Couch Lab (chill out, balearic)

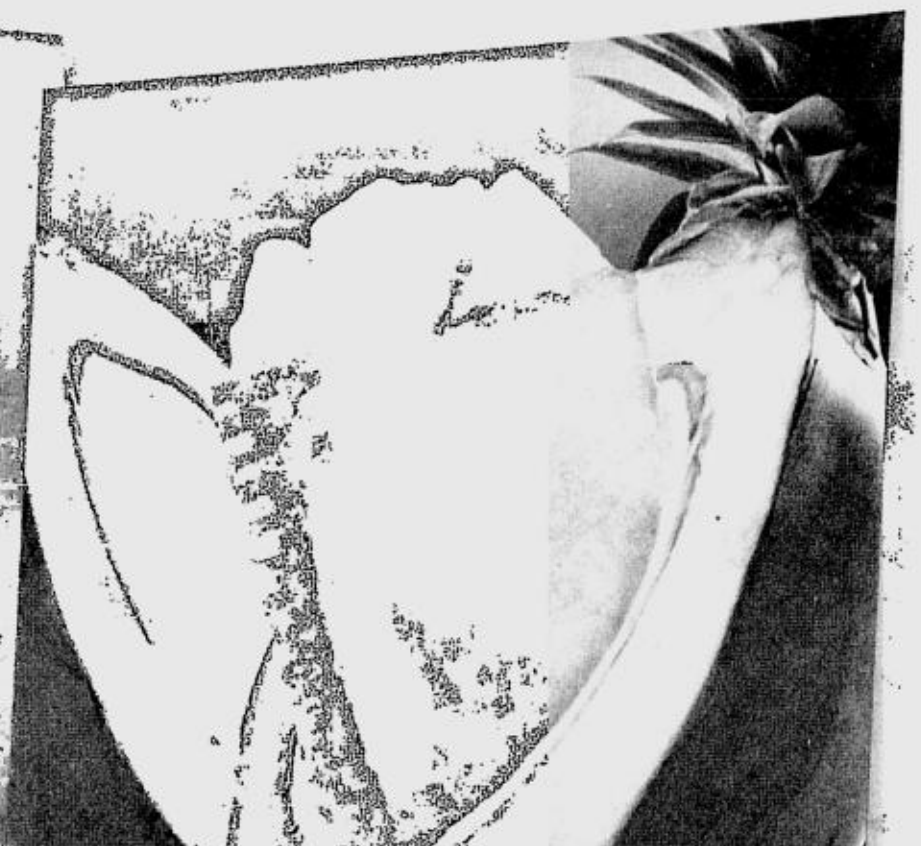
Olive: Orange (the anthems 1999-2001) with Anthony Kierulf, Jay Tengco and Jon & Marc Naval.

For your gigs to be published email adrian@djconspiracy.com not later than Tuesday afternoon.

Ube Macapuno,
hitik sa sangkap

Banana Caramel,
linamnam pinagyakap

Peach Mango,
tamis pinag-isa



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SUPER FRIENDS

What a treat!

Text and photos by Tals Diaz

FROM chill out dens and tropical restaurants to sweat-stained gyms and late night party grounds, we scoured the city's daylight-to-nightlife scene to find some fresh faces and even fresher voices who want to press connect. No tricks here, they're all treats...enjoy!

Hi, I'm Dale Villar. Call me Chatterbox.
If I could invite three famous people, dead or alive, for dinner, I'd choose Elvis Presley, Eddie Murphy and John F. Kennedy.
I wish I had the power to fly.
I have fantasies of Alyssa Milano.
Email me at royalage@hotmail.com

Hi! I'm Coy Garcia. Call me Coy.
If I could invite three famous people, dead or alive, for dinner, I'd choose God (and make him eat *kare kare* with bagoong twice), J.Lo and Mark Baretto.
I wish I had the power to heal.
I have fantasies of being Peter Pan.
Email me at: frisky_pillon@hotmail.com

Hi! I'm John Herrera. Call me anytime.
If I could invite three famous people, dead or alive, for dinner, I'd choose JFK, Elvis and Mohammad Ali.
I wish I had the power to read your mind.
I have fantasies of being immortal.
My email address is jon_herrera@hotmail.com

Hi! I'm Noelle Hilario. Call me Noe.
If I could invite three famous people, dead or alive, for dinner, I'd choose Paul McCartney, Andy Warhol and Paolo Coelho.
I wish I had the power to stop time.
I have fantasies of surfing and bumming on the beaches of Brazil.
My email address is noelle@hotmail.com

Hi! I'm Christine. Call me Tin.
If I could invite three famous people, dead or alive, for dinner, I'd choose Pablo Neruda, Paolo Coelho and Mestre Bimba.
I wish I had the power to predict the future.
I have fantasies of being in a magical world of fairies and goblins. Email me at menina_chinesa@yahoo.com

Hi, I'm Shiela Fabian. Call me the She Devil.
If I could invite three famous people, dead or alive, for dinner, I'd choose Princess Grace of Monaco, Robert de Niro and Audrey Hepburn.
I wish I had the power to rule the world!
I have fantasies of dating James Dean.
Email me at: shielafabian@yahoo.com

Hi, I'm William Fermo. Call me "Big Dork."
If I could invite three famous people, dead or alive, for dinner, I'd choose Gandhi, Pee Wee Herman and Halle Berry.
I wish I had the power to fly.
I have fantasies of snow in Texas.
Email me at lzduck@hotmail.com

Hi, I'm Jermaine Brown. Call me yours.
If I could invite three famous people, dead or alive, for dinner, I'd choose Marvin Gaye, Bob Marley and Spike Lee.
I wish I had the power to make people love more.
I have fantasies of people without ignorance.
Email me at brownjer33@hotmail.com

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SATURDAY Sugar

Monsters incognito

Early man labeled positive events as divine and negative events as monstrous. Natural disasters, incurable diseases, Kris Aquino's love life—these would have been considered unfathomable.

By Martin Valdes
Contributor

'He who fights against monsters should see to it that he does not become a monster in the process.'— **Friedrich Nietzsche**

THERE are monsters in our midst.

The drive to Divisoria is an exercise in pain. The traffic is excruciating, inching along at the speed of a sloth with two broken legs. A horde of vehicles has congested the roads so thoroughly that the next few kilometers are a horizon of steel and rubber. A jeepney decides to block an intersection instead of allowing traffic to flow. I blast my horn in protest. In response, he spits at my car and honks back—a mad, cackling laughter. I silently wish him a special seat in hell beside the cast of "Meteor Garden."

As far back as recorded history can attest to, we have shared our communities with monsters. Early mythology is bursting at the seams with astounding amalgamations, famous hybrids including centaurs, sphinxes, gorgons, and the like. Biblical texts harbor fewer monstrous entities, but no less terrific, such as Leviathan and Behemoth. The middle centuries refined our monsters, whittling them down to anthropoid sizes, and romanticizing their existence by imbuing these creatures with a moral alignment. Even today, in this day and age of techno-faith, we still have our monsters. And I am not referring to boy bands.

MONSTER/ G2

He is one of the few Filipino performers who's had panties thrown at him. Now, happily married with kids, he still manages to break 'colegiala' hearts

Well-endowed Rabbit

Tim Yap

Photos by Ronnie Salvacion
Make up by Juan Sarte III
Fashion by Folded and Hung

THE SENSITIVE man cometh. Ariel Rivera is on a roll these days. After a shift in home stations, the new CD "In my Life" (where he gets to blend with a songbird-seductress), and a starring role in a soap, Ariel seems to be more driven now than ever to get back to his A-list status.

Rightfully so, for he is one of the few good men who can render audiences rapt with soulful songs as well as with riveting on-screen performances.

Yes, he's married—and happily at that. But that doesn't stop him from putting that needed pinch of pain in his melodies. Seems this guy's middle name is Depth.

Has this Lazarus risen?

We don't doubt it.

RIVERA CRUISIN'. Ariel is wearing chalk-striped navy blue

FRONT AND BLACK: THIS GUY IS FOLDED AND HUNG. Ariel wears a stretch long-sleeved polo with vintage jeans (left), knitted shirt (middle) and coat jacket with flat front trousers (right).

Monsters incognito

From page G1

The purpose of monsters in human culture has paralleled our own social evolution, often representing adversity or something anomalous to society—or "mearcstappa," which means border-steppers. Primarily, the concept of monsters arose because man was ignorant of almost everything around him. He defined positive events as divine, and negative events as monstrous. Natural disasters, incurable diseases, carnivorous animals that could not be trapped or killed, Kris Aquino's love life—all these would have been considered unfathomable, and consequently demonized.

Fear factor

The secondary function was to instill fear and enforce a specific code of conduct amongst those in the community. Organized religion, in particular, made effective use of the superstitious nature of the pious, crafting armies of darkness to keep their followers in line. Incubi, succubae, and devils of every rank and order meant a life of temptation and an afterlife of suffering for those deemed unworthy in God's eyes, as interpreted by the local clergy. Even parents have not been above this Machiavellian tactic, introducing children to the legendary *aswang* and *kapre*, or whatever the local boogeyman was called, to make sure the kids finished their vegetables. The half-man half-horse *tikbalang* -- an acid version of My Little Pony gone berserk—was of particular trauma to my childhood.

A policeman waves my car to a halt. He tells me I just took a left on a no-left street. I apologize, hand him my driver's license, and ask for a ticket. He looks confused, even suspicious, as if the answer to last night's "Final Jeopardy" question still eluded him. I'll take Corrupt Policemen for five hundred, Alex! I ask for the ticket a second time, explaining that I could not give him any money, as I was headed for Divisoria to buy a Halloween costume. He glares at me and lets me go.

The Beauty of the Beasts

Classic literature provides us with the third purpose of monsters, which is that of social reflection. The texts of Bram Stoker and Mary Shelley are commentaries, and their monsters, representations of the most frightening facets of the social prism. Seen in the right light, Dracula, Dr. Frankenstein's monster, and Edward Hyde, would all appear as they really were: reflections of humanity's own distorted face.

The modern incarnation of the monster is a steep departure from tradition. The undead nocturnal stalkers are no longer the clumsy Nosferatu that clambered through victims' windows, vvvanting to sackkkk deyrrr blahhhd. Instead, the monsters of today's pop culture are leather-clad, steel-wielding advertisements—beautiful, charismatic and reeking of sex appeal. They have come to represent the chic of alienation ("The Lost Boys"), the seduction of materialism ("American Psycho"), the allure of immortality ("Interview with a Vampire," "Underworld"), and the intense cool of being a bad guy that everybody roots for ("The Silence of the Lambs"). We have evolved from ignorance, fear and contemplation. This latter stage finds us endowing the adversary with attributes that we ourselves wished we possessed. We have come to emulate the monster.

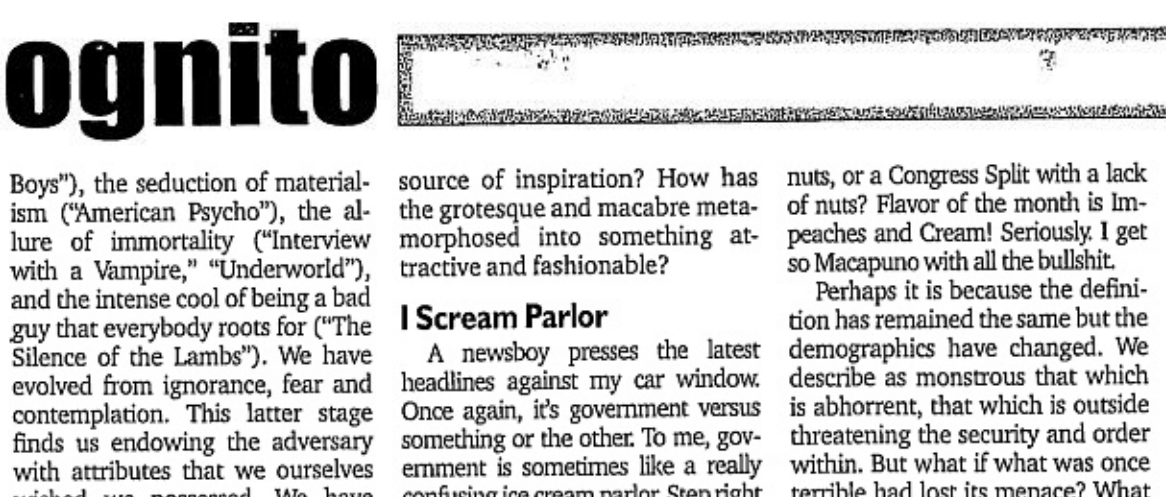
How has this come to pass? How has a traditional instrument of fear suddenly come to be a source of inspiration? How has the grotesque and macabre metamorphosed into something attractive and fashionable?

I Scream Parlor

A newsboy presses the latest headlines against my car window. Once again, it's government versus something or the other. To me, government is sometimes like a really confusing ice cream parlor. Step right up, citizen, and sample one of the many perplexing flavors! How about a Metro Vanilla with Rocky Roads? Or Senate Supreme with a lot of nuts, or a Congress Split with a lack of nuts? Flavor of the month is Impeaches and Cream! Seriously. I get so Macapuno with all the bullshit.

Perhaps it is because the definition has remained the same but the demographics have changed. We describe as monstrous that which is abhorrent, that which is outside threatening the security and order within. But what if what was once terrible had lost its menace? What if what was formerly criminal had become the norm? What if the monsters that had frightened us once upon a scary tale now actually dwelt among us?

There are creatures that suck the life plasma out of our nation's veins. There are beasts that do not need the full moon to succumb to spasms of violence. There are monsters that allow other monsters to thrive. We have elected them into positions of power, accommodating their greed and rationalizing their atrocities. We have all been infected with the virus of complacency. With our silent acceptance, we ourselves have become monsters.



LIFE sucks

The Hero Hour

This is the reason that cinematic monster-figures no longer scare us. Our own realities are so much more harrowing. It is a daily battle for every Filipino to get up in the morning and attempt to be a good person throughout the day. We might as well watch movies where the "monsters" are intelligent and classy—our own manifestations are so much less.

We are in need of Van Helsings and Beowulfs. We know where the monsters are, but where are the heroes? I will take a long look at myself in the mirror this morning, and pray to God that I am on the right end of a wooden stake.

I find nothing I can use as a costume in Divisoria. The stores are closing, and it is too late to go anywhere else. Ah, well, perhaps I shall just come as myself. Maybe no one will notice.

(e-mail: lasengnomad@yahoo.com)

Ray of fright

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

IN THE Reincarnation Room, three floors up from Hell and a stone's throw away from the neighborhood Gap, Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone Ritchie contemplates her next move. Her SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) takes her from the bullish Gaultier cone-bra years to her most recent hype-driven spit-swap with Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera. So before an audience of overworked PR people, cynical stylists, and confused allies, she asks how the trajectory was reversed despite help from a phenomenally less pudgy Missy Elliott.

"We saw the same kiss from tATu and it was way hotter," answers Gwyneth Paltrow, stroking Chris Martin's bean-shaped head.

"You should stop exercising so the world would be a better place," suggests Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore.

Ashton Kutcher guffaws, "And while you're at it, date me! It did wonders for Demi!" He was definitely referring to his trophy MILF's Lazarus-like regeneration.

At this point, Madonna lets Rocco and Lourdes out for an etiquette seminar with Sharon Osbourne as she signs copies of her "Remixed and Revisited" EP. With tears in her eyes, she realizes that "American Life" is a clunker, that it's been reduced to the most debased musical currency there is: the hastily-put-together remix CD. The faux-Brit accent downgrades to her old Detroit drawl as she assumes her favorite yoga position, the Corpse. Guy Ritchie rushes to his wife's side and strokes her hair which, after years of bleaching, feels like really expensive hay.

"No worries, love. We can still make movies like 'Swept Away'." The conviction in his voice is dead real, creepy enough to frighten bats. The Ritchies then stand up and leave. After all, there are tourists standing by the Lulu Guinness Store in Notting Hill that they can startle.

American wife

Capturing the zeitgeist in the early '80s, Madonna flew in the face of convention and sold loads of records with her smart-whore act. Despite being described as "a teaspoon of talent in a sea of ambition," she rose then fell then rose again, the last two instances being "Evita" and "Ray of Light," respectively. (Her assault on electronica in 1998 was brilliant, but it was something that Björk had been doing since 1993.) Of late, however, she has done nothing buzzworthy. "Beautiful Stranger" was cute but forgettable. "Music" tried to be cool but the lead-off single, "American Pie," failed to amaze an audience already used to younger, bigger-breasted pop stars. Two million years later, she appears bony in "Die Another Day" and sounds bone-dry with "American Life." In fact, she has apparently dozed off into the realm of "lame, boring, and irritating."

> In the early '80s, Madonna flew in the face of convention. Lately, however, she has done nothing buzzworthy.

With the grace of a lumbering elephant, Madonna has been too busy taking care of the next generation to notice her incredibly shrinking talent. Her daughter Lourdes, called the new Wednesday Addams by a gossip website, is Madonna's little monster. Popbitch writes: "At a recent Top of The Pops appearance, Lourdes demanded a Diet Coke. When a crew member brought her a normal Coke, the seven-year-old's reply was, 'I said Diet, asshole.'" With a mother who's the author of terrible books for children, it comes as no shocker. The proper little madam also attends a spiritual school which teaches that there is "the good you" and "the bad you." We can only wonder how Rocco would turn out.

Guy Ritchie who, pre-Madonna, was known as the forward-thinking director of "Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels," has been bellying up at the box office as well. The jewel heist film "Snatch" was tepid and apparently not recession-proof. But the biggest turkey of their creative partnership has been "Swept Away," a hopelessly inept remake of the 1974 Lina Wertmueller original that made viewers moan with agony before finally heaving their popcorn. In the right hands, "Swept Away" could have been Oscar-worthy. With Madonna on board, it was pure poison.

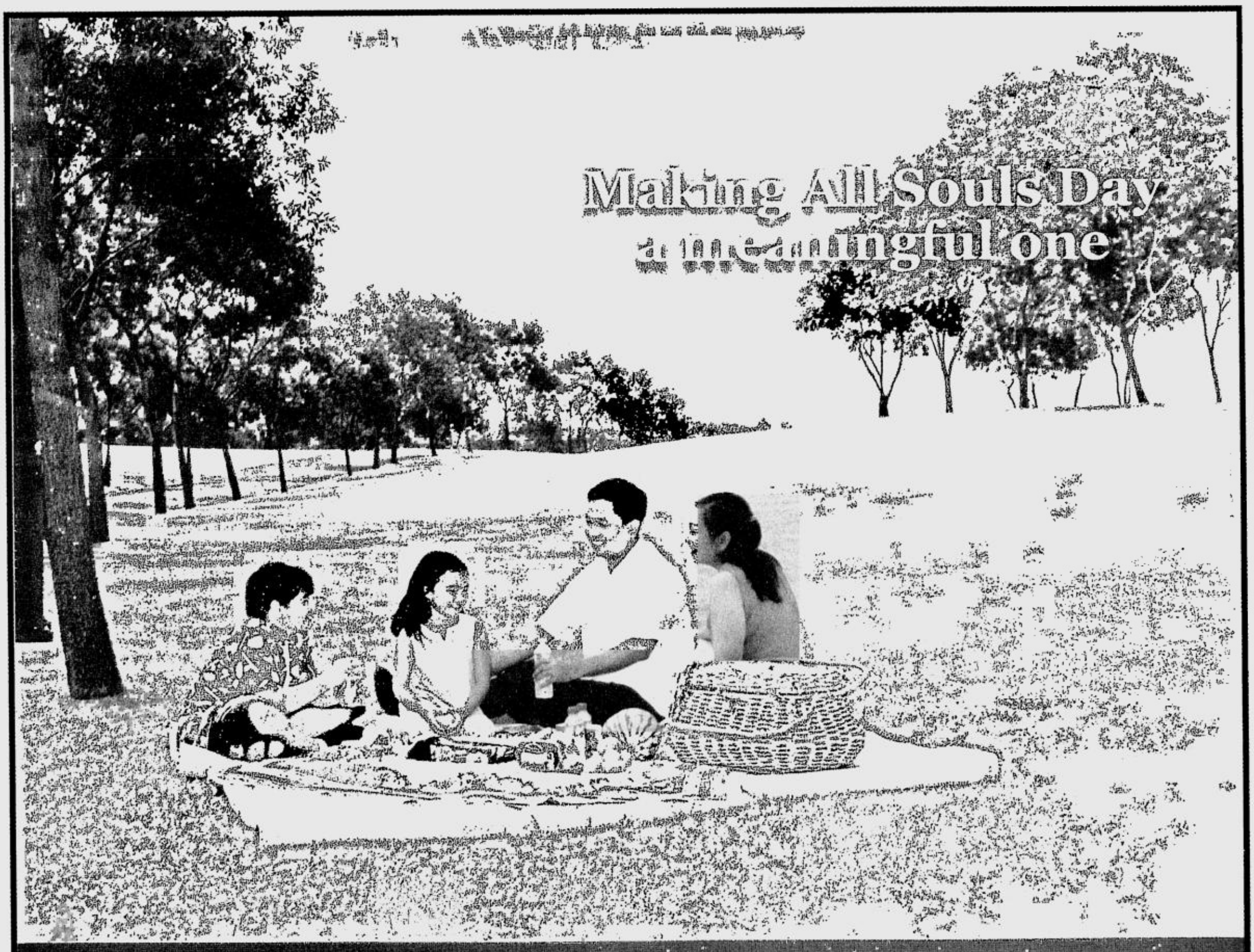
If Madonna calls

There's nothing particularly exciting about what Madonna's doing now. She joins the ranks of J.Lo, Britney, and Mariah Scarey as car-crash singer-actresses who believe that there's enough room on the IMAX screen for all their t'n a. Her West End debut in London's Wyndhams Theatre earlier this year was in a comedy called "Up For Grabs," a headline that seems to sum up her curtains-down thespian talent.

Since her acting career is one long mockumentary, Madonna has resorted to co-branding to remain musically relevant. She allowed Kelly Osbourne to cover "Papa Don't Preach" and revisited herself with "Into The Hollywood Groove," obviously scraping bottom both times. Her collaborations with Mirwais were inspired, but the high-octane electronic purring soon sounded like a computer farting underwater. For much needed street cred, her unsexy groaning in "Justify My Love" is sampled on "Justify My Thug," one of the tracks on Jay-Z's "The Black Album: The End of an Era." Is this an omen for Madonna? I can only hope.

As a piece of nightlife driftwood, Madonna is trying her damndest to get back on the front pages. Clearly capitalizing on the stiff tonsil hockey episode at the 2003 VMA's, Madonna teamed up with another possibly washed-up blonde, Britney Spears, on "Me Against The Music." The desperation made her catch the wave, but even hardcore Madonna fans admit that she has already missed the boat. And despite her undeniable influence on pop culture, sociopathic devotion is completely unnecessary and frankly, quite pathetic. Since reinvention is something that anyone can easily do these days, should we wait for her next makeover? A Junior Vasquez club hit from 1996 has the fitting reply: "If Madonna calls, I'm not here."

WHATEVER.



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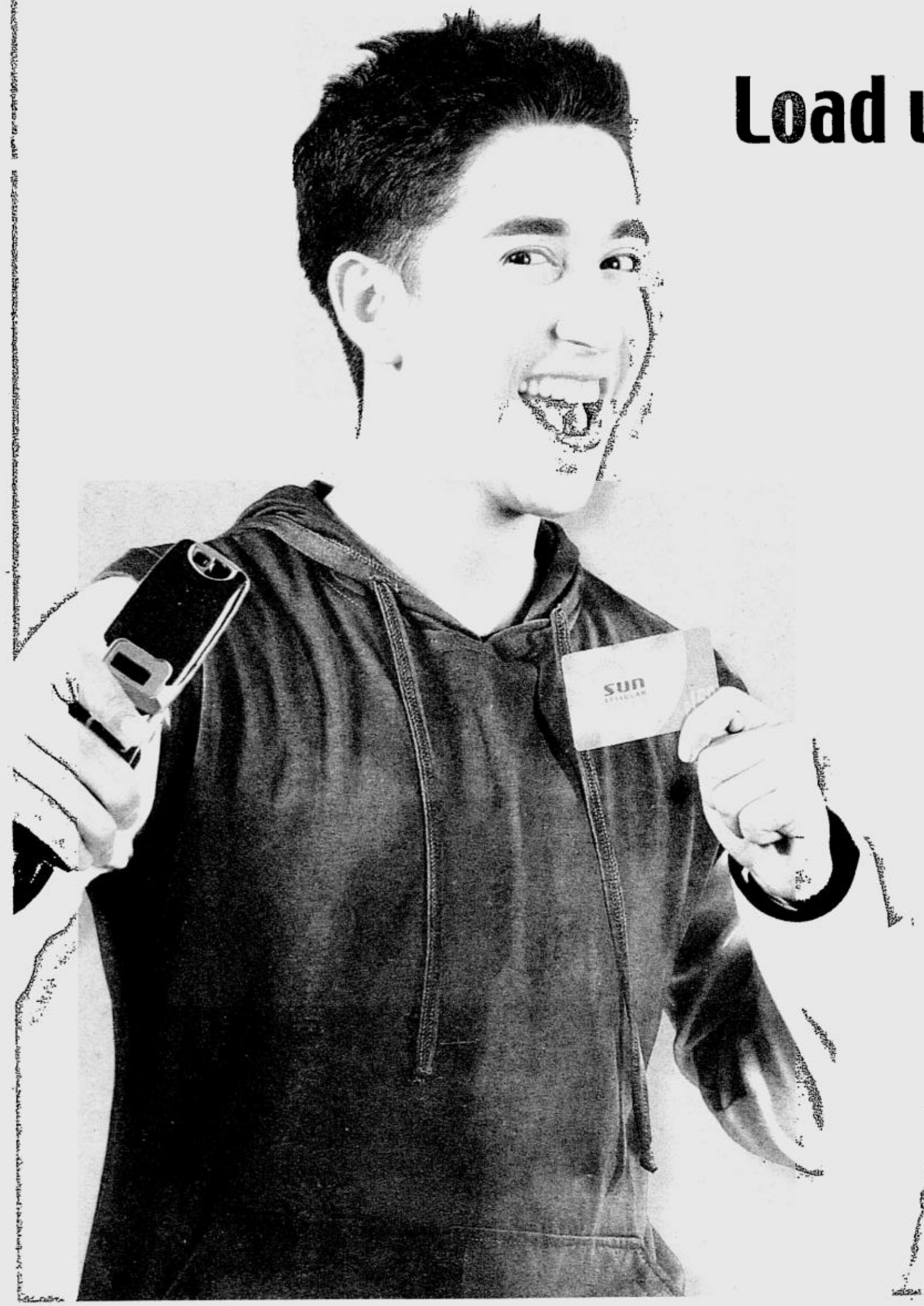

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No chance of coup d'etat, military assures public

Story on PAGE A2

Erap: I'll be behind him but FPJ is not my clone

By Armand Nocum

WHY would "Da King" need political experience to become president when he has Joseph Estrada to back him up?

"He has no need of

ERAP/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

9 dead in Edsa crash

AT LEAST nine people were killed when the jeepney they were riding in plunged some 70 feet into a building construction site on Edsa in Mandaluyong City at around 9 last night, the Metro Manila Development Authority reported. The jeepney driver and a 10-year-old boy were among the fatalities. Initial reports said witnesses saw the jeepney cruising on Edsa when it was sideswiped by a bus, forcing it through the iron fence surrounding the construction site. *L. del Puerto and E. Sembrano*

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph November 2, 2003 ★★★ 92 pages / 11 sections / vol. 18 / no. 327 P15 website: www.inq7.net

'Stop using us vs Davide'

Court employees deny asking Congress to probe judicial funds

THE ALLIANCE of Court Employees Associations of the Philippines (Aceap) has a message to the lawmakers who impeached Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.: Stop using us.

Aceap president Jojo Guerrero yesterday denied that it was the members of the alliance who had initially asked Congress to investigate supposed irregularities in the Judiciary Development Fund, and that they were calling on all court employees to go on mass leave.

The impeachment proponents have said that they filed the second complaint against Davide in behalf of court employees aggrieved over the disbursements of the JDF.

But Guerrero said his group, composed of nearly 20,000 court employees nationwide, had not raised questions about the fund.

"We have nothing to do with [the calls to investigate the JDF]. They should have pity on the court employees," he said.

Guerrero also said the issue of the supposed questionable disbursements initially surfaced during House deliberations on the proposed bill to increase the allowances of members of the judiciary.

He said the Aceap opposed the proposal of some legislators to use the JDF as a funding source for the increases.

Guerrero urged court employees to be calm and not be swayed by emotions triggered by Davide's impeachment.

He stressed that the Aceap was not taking sides in the matter but also wanted to get at the truth.

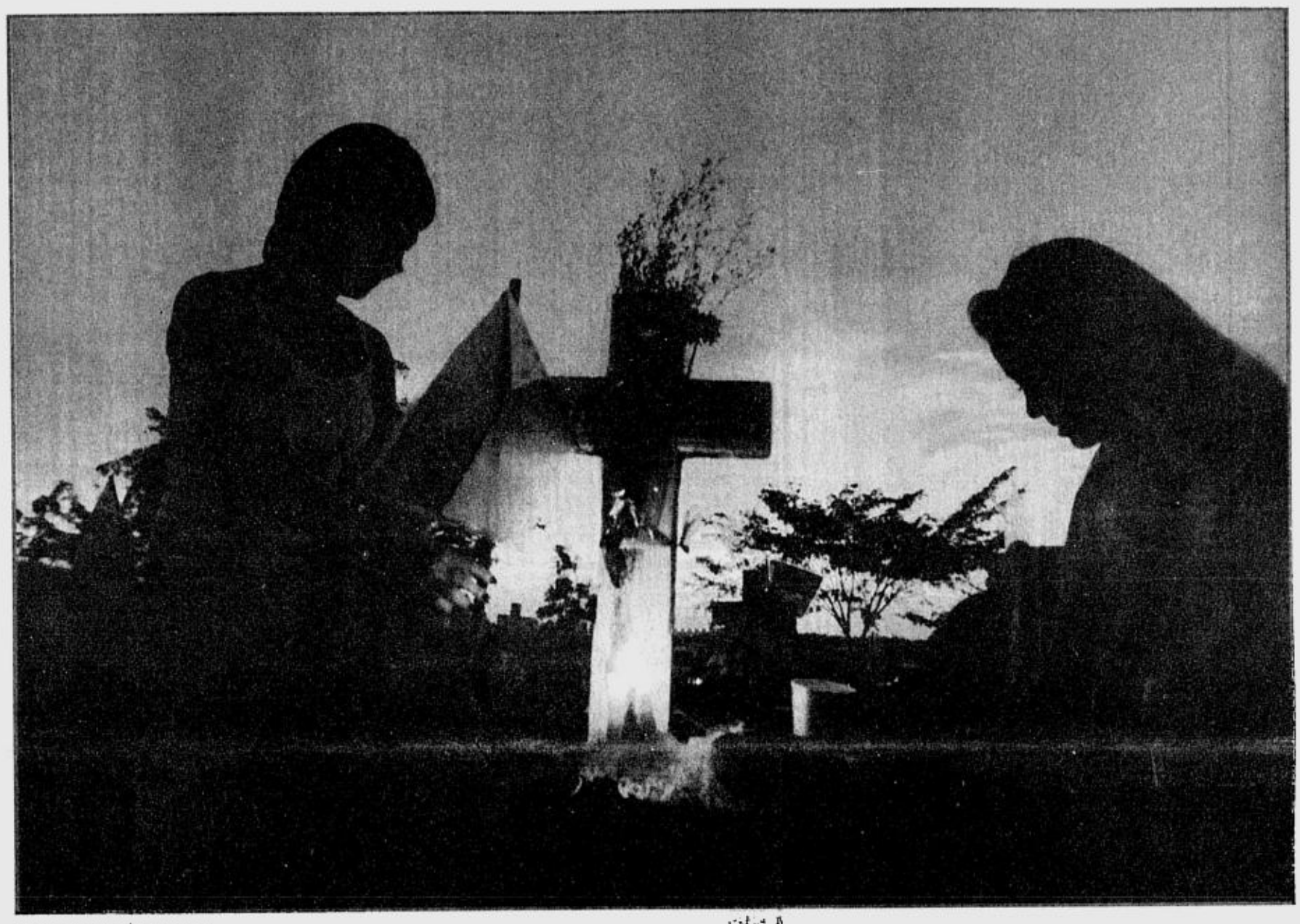
Heherson Alvarez, spokesperson of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, said impeachment proponents in the House were in for a disappointment because many signatories to the complaint had promised to withdraw their signatures before the scheduled transmittal to the Senate on Nov. 10.

He said at least eight Lakas members had made the commitment but did not want their names published so they would not be "pressured by the other side" to reverse their decision.

Noting that five Lakas members had earlier withdrawn their signatures, Alvarez said party leaders were moving to ensure that the complaint would have less than the 76 needed to transmit it to the Senate.

"We are also asking [members of] civil society to ask their congressmen to reflect

STOP/ A4



INEVITABLE DUSK
Night comes gently to snatch the remains of another day until only mere shadows of ourselves are profiled against the darkness. And so it goes for All Saints Day. It came and went into that inevitable dusk toward which all God's creatures must go. EDWIN BACASMAS

Murdered sons' mother preaches forgiveness

By Blanche S. Rivera

AT LEAST one mother's faith does not lie buried beneath the graves of her two murdered sons, killed 12 days before Christmas six years ago.

Agnes de la Torre Quintos, mother of the slain brothers Paul and Michael Quintos whose treacherous murders jolted the sleepy province of Occidental Mindoro in 1997, has instead devoted herself to preaching the healing virtue of forgiveness and to strengthening and protecting the Filipino family which she believes to be the foundation of a good society.

"Life will never be the same for us. I loved my children as any mother could love her child. But we cannot stay in grief. We have to move on. There are people who need us," she said.

Quintos, 65, is deep into pro-life advocacy work, particularly in the Christian formation of young parents and professionals whom she believes hold the key to a more peaceful and just society that would not close its eyes to the evils that her family has suffered.

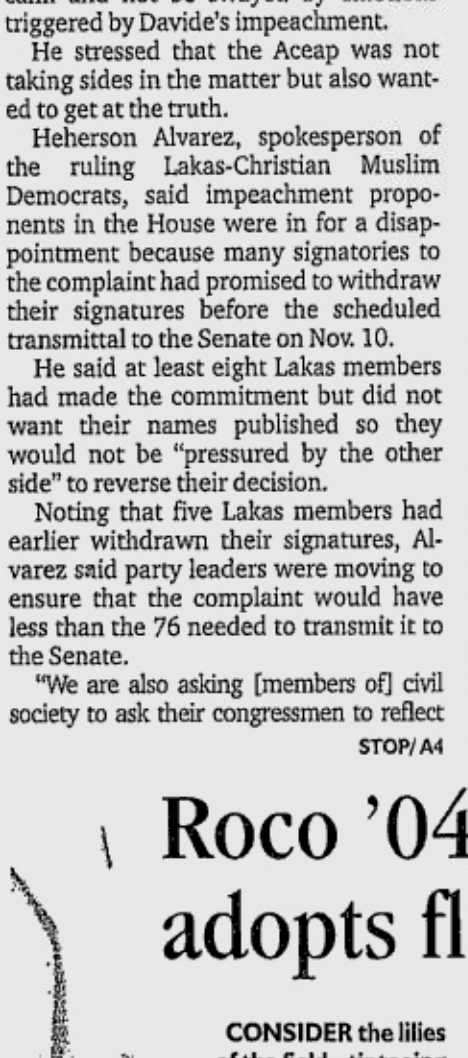
The quiet and unassuming Quintos has found the courage to literally knock on the doors of Congress and other government agencies to oppose legislative measures that she feels promote abortion and would bring about the destruction of the Filipino family.

In the provincial capital of Mamburao, where her son Michael was barangay captain of Tayamanan, Quintos has delivered on a promise she made to bring a teacher to the Mangyan hill tribe group that had sought Michael's help so they could learn to read and write.

Since that night in December six years

MURDERED/ A8

Roco '04 campaign adopts floral motif



CONSIDER the lilies of the field...tiptoeing through the tulips and the hibiscus. A garden grows here. PDI PHOTO

By Michael Lim Ubac

IMAGINE colorful floral *barong*.

Now imagine it as official attire of the President of the Philippines.

Presidential aspirant Raul Roco's penchant for wearing floral polo shirts has nothing to do with his "Honorary Woman" title, or *feng shui*. Yet it is expected to bring more than a dash of color to the campaign trail of the man who has consistently topped most of the surveys for the 2004 polls.

And should he win, we might as well bet on floral *barong* Tagalog as another symbol for the Chief Executive.

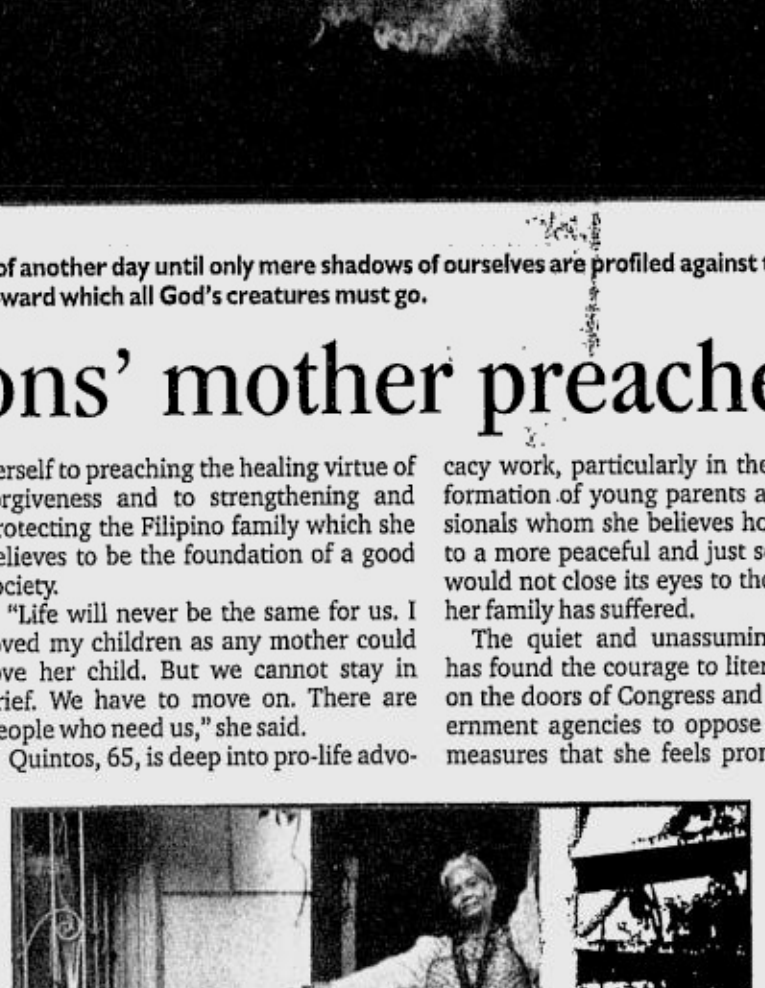
During dinner with senior INQUIRER editors Wednesday night, Roco admitted he was a captive of his own fashion statement.

"People always expect me to show up in my flowered shirts," said Roco "I can no longer wear solid colors."

He recalled an instance when he arrived on the set of a morning television show wearing a plain colored shirt. The host asked: "Is anything wrong, Senator? Are you sick?"

"I had to change," the former senator said. "I was going to be introduced (with a joke about floral shirts). They couldn't

ROCO/ A8



THE BEST is yet to come for the Philippine United Senior Citizens Association. At right is its founder Luz Gonzales, 80. JOAN BONDOC

EMPOWERMENT

In their twilight years, Golden Girls find life's meaning

By Edson Tandoc
Metro

AT 80, Luz Gonzales is ready, and excited, to meet her Maker.

Death for her would mean a well-deserved rest and a "reunion" with her favorite grandson, Erol, who died in 1994 of a mysterious illness at the age of 24.

During her nightly prayers, in fact, she asks the Lord to take her.

"I have to rest. I miss my grandson and I want to be with him," she says.

She already has a tomb constructed for her beside that of Erol's at the La Loma Cemetery.

Gonzales says she has lived a meaningful life and is thankful to God for giving her a chance to do something for others.

"Before I go I can say that I left the world a better place than when I found it," Gonzales says in an unsteady voice.

One of her first charity projects was taking care of people with leprosy. Gonzales said she was never afraid to visit their homes and to mingle with them.

The memory of the story her mother used to read to her when she was still a child lingers in her memory.

According to the story, bells were tied to the legs of people with leprosy so other people would know

IN THEIR/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will be stormy with rough to very rough seas. Central Luzon will have rains. The rest of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: M. TOLOSA, PDI RESEARCH/11/02/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

DAVIDE-HOUSE FIGHT

No chance of coup, AFP assures public

By TJ Burgonio, *Manila*, and
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

THE MILITARY yesterday downplayed any possibility of a coup as a result of the "vacuum of leadership" brought about by the constitutional crisis arising from the impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff, said the military and police have not monitored any moves to recruit officers and enlisted personnel for destabilization attempts.

"There's no destabilization. We have not received such a report of recruitment within the military ranks," Garcia said in a phone interview, adding that the armed forces remained loyal to the Constitution.

"The AFP will continue to be constitutional. We will always be the protector of the people when it comes to maintaining security and stability," he said.

Director Ricardo de Leon, acting chief of the Directorial Staff of the Philippine National Police assured the public:

"We are always guided by the law. We have not monitored anything as far as the PNP is concerned," he said in an interview. "We are not affected by that issue because our function is more on crowd control."

Davide warned on Thursday that a "vacuum of leadership" resulting from the constitutional crisis caused by his impeachment might lead to another form of military adventurism.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military chief information officer, reiterated that no group within the military was capable of mounting a destabilization move.

In Lucena City, a senior military official from the Southern Luzon Unified Command yesterday chided Davide for his warning of military adventurism.

"I don't know what the Chief Justice has been saying. But it's up to him whatever he wanted to say," said Brig. Gen. Efren Orbon, commander of the 202nd Infantry Brigade operating in the Calabarzon area.

Orbon stressed that the military will remain in the barracks.

But communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the military had long been waiting for this kind of situation.

"The military establishment loves this kind of crisis situation in the civilian government," he said.

Sense of amusement

Rosal added that they are watching the latest developments with keen interest.

"We observe with a sense of amusement how the different reactionary factions go around or twist the rules to serve their narrow interests," he said.

Rosal urged the people to unite and remain vigilant to prevent another attempt at military adventurism.

"If ever these messianic military officials would have their way, the biggest loser here is the Filipino people," he said in a cellular phone interview.

Rosal also dismissed reports that New People's Army rebels would take advantage of the "constitutional crisis" to stage offensives against government forces.

"The NPA plan of staging tactical offensives against the enemy is a constant reality. The Red fighters are always ready to strike the moment there is an opening, with or without any perceived crisis," he said.

He described the impeachment move against Davide as "reeking of factional treachery and collusion."

Rosal also predicted that the 2004 elections would be violent and dirty.

As this developed, Garcia stressed that there was nothing unusual about President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to all military commanders to account for their troops.

Garcia said the public should not be alarmed by the President's directive last Friday to Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing of the Army's 4th Infantry Division and other military commanders to account for their troops.

"Even without the announcement of the President, it's the inherent responsibility of the commanders to be able to respond whenever it's needed," he said.

Impeachment backers have face-saving option, says Kiko

By Michael Lim Ubac

AS EXPECTED, the campaign to convince pro-impeachment lawmakers to withdraw their signatures from the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. during Congress' Halloween break continued yesterday.

But while the House leadership was discreetly engaged in the "*agaw-pirma*" (signature retrieval) drive, the Senate stepped into the fray, albeit unofficially.

Through administration Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, the Upper House yesterday provided the signatories with another option to end the impasse without losing face.

"Congressmen who wish to squarely address disbursements of the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) can begin by amending Presidential Decree 1949 (which created the JDF)," said Pangilinan, chair of the Senate justice committee.

The final solution is legislation, not impeachment, Pangilinan maintained. He then urged his counterparts in the House to "withdraw their signatures ... and instead sponsor amendments to the law."

Pangilinan noted that only 11 votes have to be withdrawn to stop the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate when Congress resumes sessions on Nov. 10.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla earlier disclosed that indeed "night crawlers" had sought to reduce the number of signatories from 86 to 75.

"Night crawlers" are those who personally go to representatives' homes to try to convince them to withdraw their signatures.

Out of proportion

Pangilinan said the Senate, wary that the insistence of the House to look into the JDF could be blown all out of proportion, had crafted a measure that would address the issue.

"The Senate has passed on third reading a measure amending the PD, with myself and Sen. John Osmeña as sponsors," Pangilinan said. In view of this option, he explained, resorting to a second impeachment would be "drastic, reckless ... (and) of doubtful legality."

He was referring to Senate Bill 2675, which he co-authored with Osmeña and which was passed by the Senate on Oct. 20, three days before the lower chamber impeached Davide.

SB 2675 prohibits the grant of allowances by local governments to the members and personnel of the judiciary. Once the law is enacted, the high court will use the JDF to cover said allowances.

The bill was introduced on the floor and adopted on the same day as part of the agreement between Pangilinan and Osmeña, who earlier blocked the adoption of the bicameral report on the judiciary compensation act (JCA) if the issue of the JDF was not addressed first.

Osmeña's objection

Another brainchild of Pangilinan's, the JCA provides special allowances for judges and justices equivalent to 100 percent of their basic salaries, which will be implemented over a period of four years.

Osmeña's main objection to the measure was anchored on the allegation that the Supreme Court, through Davide, had misused the JDF. So although the report on the JCA had been approved as early as Sept. 20, the senator moved to remand it to the conference committee for amendments.

But Pangilinan said the period of individual and committee amendments had expired, and the Senate version had already been reconciled with that of the Lower House.

Osmeña vowed to oppose the proposed act's passage at all costs, triggering an impasse which culminated in the walkout of 75 judges who trooped to the Senate to express support for the bill.

Senate President Franklin Drilon arranged a meeting between the two warring senators, who finally decided to craft SB 2675, addressing the JDF issue.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the JCA into law last week.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADMISSIONS APPLICATION FOR SY 2004-2005

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DOMNET MEMBER SCHOOLS
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Sunday – 08:00 to 11:30 AM

PROVINCIAL
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College of Commerce and Accountancy** (Accountancy (COD), Business Administration (COD), Economics)
College of Education** (Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Food Technology, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Nutrition and Dietetics, Tourism, AB-BSE Major in Social Sciences/Studies)
Faculty of Engineering* (Electronics and Communications Engineering (COE), Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering (all five programs are on a COD status) Information Management, Information Technology, Computer Science)
College of Fine Arts and Design (Advertising, Industrial Design, Interior Design, Painting)
Conservatory of Music (COE)
College of Nursing** (COE)
Faculty of Pharmacy** (Biochemistry, Botany, Medical Technology, Pharmacy)
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College of Science*** (Applied Physics major in Instrumentation, Biology (COD), Chemistry (COE), Mathematics major in Actuarial Science, Microbiology, Psychology)

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c. Clear photocopy of Birth Certificate.
d. Non-refundable Aplication fee of PhP500.00.

PROVINCIAL TESTING SCHEDULE

Date	*Provincial Testing Center*
Oct. 11, 2003	Ateneo de Zamboanga, Zamboanga City
Oct. 18, 2003	Sacred Heart School, Tacloban City T. del Rosario College, Balanga, Bataan
Nov. 08, 2003	Aquinas University, Legaspi City St. Paul College, Bocaue, Bulacan Holy Trinity College, Palawan City
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HOPING TO LEARN FROM RP
Laos Chief Justice Khammy Sayavong (center) arrives in Manila with his wife Bounghuime. They were met by Philippine Ambassador Antonio Cabangon-Chua (right).

Laos justice here to study judiciary

PHILIPPINE laws are "good," he said.

Khammy Sayavong, president of the People's Supreme Court of Laos, arrived in Manila Tuesday for a short visit to observe the Philippine judicial system.

One of Sayavong's first official functions was a dinner hosted by his Filipino counterpart, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., on Wednesday.

Sayavong met with Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia the following day, and was scheduled to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo over the weekend.

Yesterday Sayavong, who is also a military general, concluded that he had learned much about "due process" and the rule of law. He was speaking through an interpreter and did not elaborate.

Ambassador to Laos Antonio Cabangon-Chua said Sayavong invited Davide to Vientiane.

Chua said Laos was trying to "open up" and shape its judiciary to attract more foreign investors. Thus, he said, Sayavong was studying the judicial systems of different countries, including France, Japan and Vietnam.

Laos is also looking forward to importing Philippine jeepneys, according to Chua. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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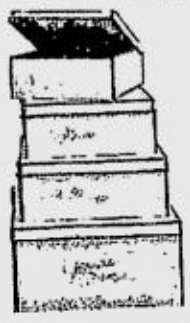

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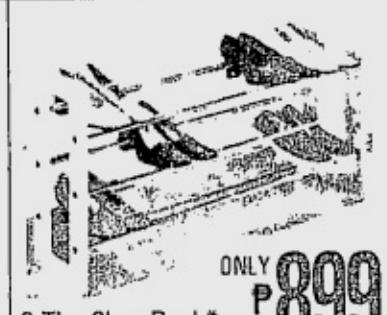

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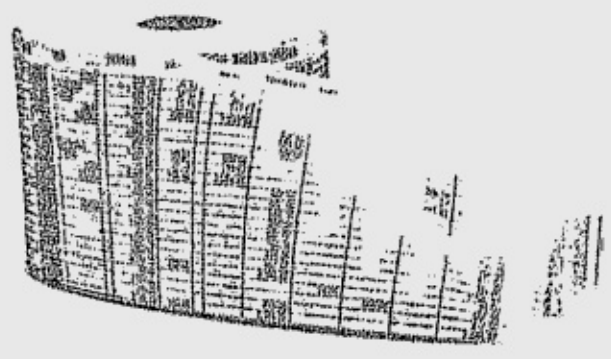

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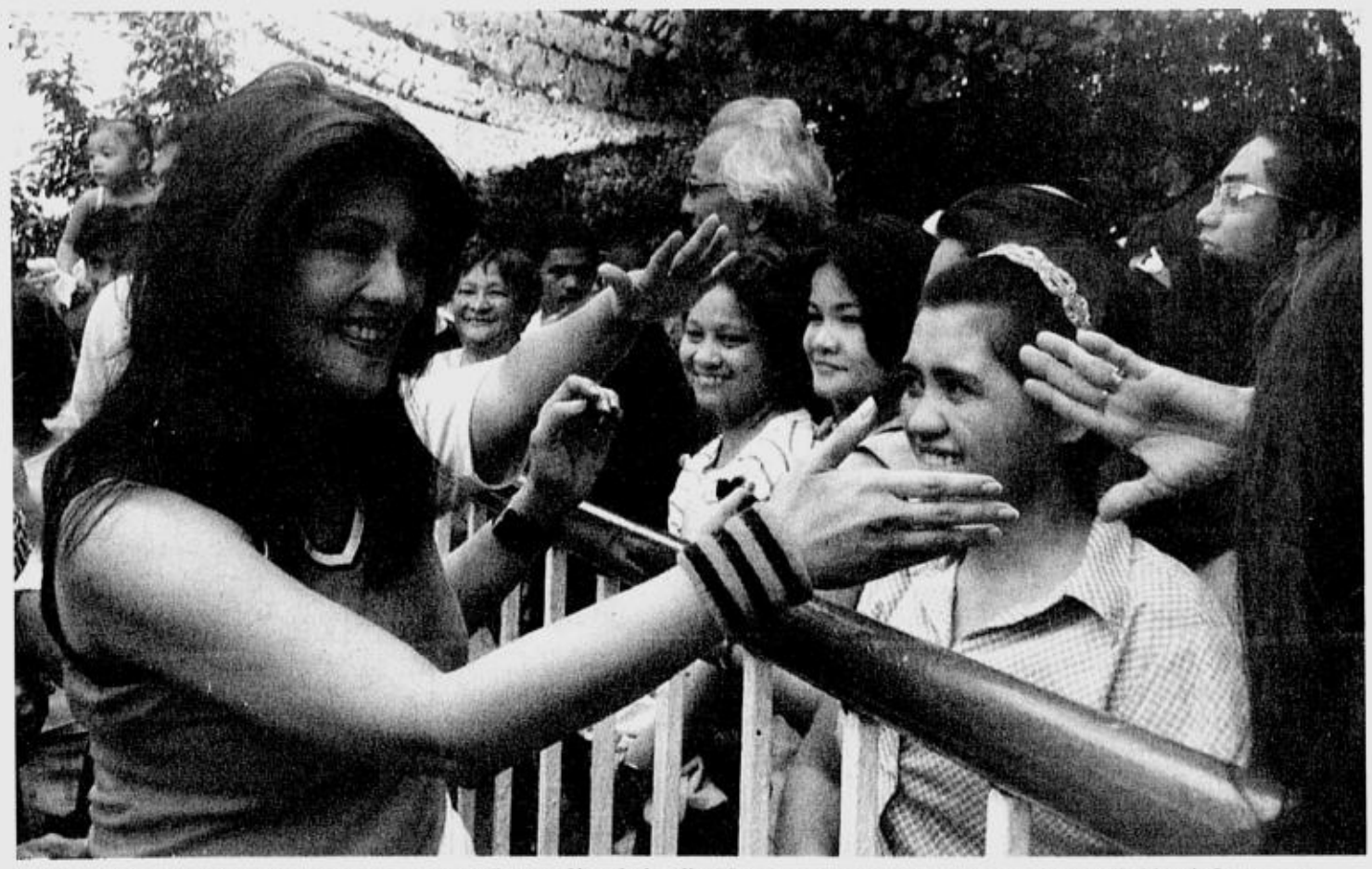

SHOULDN'T she be in Batac where the waxen figure of her father lies? But Rep. Imee Marcos goes to the Manila North Cemetery, perhaps the better to see and be seen and be swamped by a sea of potential voters. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Cebu solon warns Joe de V of ouster

CEBU CITY—Members of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats may oust Speaker Jose de Venecia if he allows the transmittal to the Senate of the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., a party member warned yesterday.

"If [he does so], his position will clash with ours, and most of my colleagues in Lakas and in the Liberal Party will disagree with him. And his position as Speaker could become shaky," Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco told the INQUIRER in Cebuano.

Simple majority

Cuenco noted that all it would take to remove De Venecia is a simple majority vote (50 percent plus one) of the 226-member House, or 114 votes.

He said there were some 100 Lakas, 15 LP and 20 Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino members in the House. The members of the Nationalist People's Coalition, who initiated Davide's impeachment, number 46.

According to Cuenco, the best thing for De Venecia to do is follow the Supreme Court order saying the status quo must be maintained until the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint against Davide is determined.

Don't blame him

In Manila, Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez said Cuenco's statement was uncalled for.

He said it was unfair for some Lakas congressmen to blame De Venecia for the impeachment move of the minority because the latter made the necessary tactical effort to stop it.

He also said that the threat to oust the Speaker was "misplaced energy," and that Cuenco and company should have used their energies to campaign against the impeachment among Lakas members.

"This is an expression of hopelessness," Alvarez said. "How can they establish the majority control when they can't even handle the minority control?"

Cuenco said that the NPC congressmen would push the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate when Congress resumes sessions on Nov. 10, and that it was up to De Venecia to exercise leadership and prevent this from happening.

Pessimistic

He said he did not know whether all the 17 Lakas members who signed the complaint could be persuaded to withdraw their signatures. But he said this might happen if President Macapagal-Arroyo would tell them to do so.

Cuenco said he was pessimistic that De Venecia would find a "win-win" solution to the controversy, considering the impeachment proponents' hardline stand.

Alvarez said the easier way to prevent the transmittal of the Articles was for Lakas members to convince the concerned party mates to withdraw their signatures.

"Cuenco and his group are just adding a secondary reason for the impeachment," Alvarez said. "The primary reason, of course, is the minority." *Reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Cynthia D. Balana in Manila*

GMA confused—Roco

RAUL Roco yesterday aimed another broadside at President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying her handling of the constitutional crisis sparked by the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. was "confused."

Roco scoffed at Ms Macapagal's statement Friday that the presidency was a "middle force" *vis a vis* the prevailing crisis.

"She is neither here nor there," Roco said in a statement. "When the country is faced with a constitutional crisis and needs resolute moral leadership, the President unfortunately exhibits only confusion."

The solution, according to the presidential aspirant, is simple and within Ms Macapagal's power to achieve: She must exert her leadership over her party members and her allies in the Nationalist People's Coalition to withdraw their signatures from the impeachment complaint.

"This way, she will be able to prevent irreparable harm to the country's democratic institutions," Roco said. *Martin P. Marfil*

'Stop using us vs Davide'

From page A1

on the lack of legitimacy and fairness of the complaint [by withdrawing their signatures]," he said.

Alvarez expressed confidence that the impeachment complaint would not be transmitted to the Senate on Nov. 10, as planned by the House.

"Public opinion will [take] shape to make the congressmen change their minds comfortably," he said.

He also said President Macapagal-Arroyo had merely asked for the verification of the number of Lakas members who had signed the complaint, but was keeping her neutral stance on the standoff.

Sense of sacrifice

The President reiterated her call for a compromise solution to the crisis in brief remarks at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, where she laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and attended a memorial mass for her parents, former President Diosdado Macapagal and Evangeline Macaraeg.

"We all need to make our commensurate sacrifice in order to change society," Ms Macapagal said, recalling her father's words.

"It is also this sense of sacrifice that I have invoked in appealing to the leaders of our legislature and our judiciary to defuse the political impasse we are facing," she added.

The President expressed confidence that the country would survive the crisis and called on the people to pray for unity and peace and an end to partisan politics.

A Malacañang insider said the President had realized that she could no longer count on Speaker Jose de Venecia to convince the impeachment proponents to reverse their stand, given that the House had voted unanimously to defy the Supreme Court's status quo order.

"She cannot ask the Speaker to move because once the House made the decision, he had to take a firm stand on behalf of the House," the source said.

Covenant, not settlement

Ms Macapagal has been pushing for a settlement between the House and the judiciary.

Clarifying a report yesterday in the Cebu Daily News that he was amenable to a "covenant" with the House, Davide said: "I will not compromise the independence of the judiciary."

He said the principle of judicial independence could not be negotiated in any "settlement" or "win-win" formula being sought by various legislators and Malacañang.

Davide said he was willing to meet with heads of the executive and legislative branches, as suggested by the President, but only to discuss her suggestion to find a way to end the impeachment crisis.

"It can only prevail if the parties proceed with sincerity and with the interest of the country uppermost in mind," he said in a statement.

The President earlier said that she was seeking a "covenant" upholding the principle that the Supreme Court "has the final authority to interpret the Constitution" and "the need for strong institutional checks and balances" among co-equal branches of government.

Davide issued his statement following the report quoting Cebu Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez as saying that he was now amenable to a "covenant" with the House to defuse the crisis brought on by the impeachment complaint.

Davide stressed that the "covenant" he was referring to should not be mistaken for a "settlement," especially since the Supreme Court had set for hearing on Nov. 5 six petitions challenging the legality of the impeachment complaint.

He said the covenant "must aim at strengthening the role of each of the three branches of government, all for the sake of our country and the preservation of our democratic institutions, and to put an end to the escalation of the crisis at hand."

Also LDP

Alvarez said he was also convincing Minority Floor Leader Carlos Padilla and his colleagues in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino who had signed the complaint to rethink their position.

"Carling Padilla is a man of honor," Alvarez said. "I told him, 'Why don't you show the way as a leader of the North? You should make a principled position because the complaint is not helping Padilla or the LDP but only the NPC [Nationalist People's Coalition]."

Padilla was the last signatory to the impeachment complaint.

Invalid

Alvarez agreed with Davide's statement Thursday night that the complaint was not only unconstitutional but also invalid because some of the signatories did not take their oath before the House secretary general.

The INQUIRER learned that Rep. Mark Cojuangco, son of the business tycoon and NPC head Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, and Rep. William Fuentebella, one of the principal proponents, went to the houses of Representatives Kim Bernardo-Lokin and Joel Villanueva of the party-list group Citizens Battle Against Corruption late at night to get their signatures.

Also, Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon (LDP) told the INQUIRER that Cojuangco and Fuentebella met with him in Makati to get his signature when he was about to fly to Beijing on official business.

Biazon has since withdrawn his signature.

Estrada's challenge

From Camp Capinpin, ousted President Joseph Estrada challenged Davide to be man enough to face his impeachment trial.

Estrada, over whose own impeachment trial Davide had presided, also said the latter had earlier sought the help of tobacco magnate Lucio Tan to get the position of chief justice.

"I'll tell you the exact date, and I have witnesses to prove it," the disgraced leader told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Davide denied on Thursday having lobbied for his post.

Estrada said Davide should face up to the charges and open the JDF books to the House.

"He has been saying that his office is the last bulwark of democracy," the ex-President said. "The more reason he should keep his integrity beyond question. He must submit to the impeachment court. There, he can clear himself of these charges and prove his innocence."

"He cannot forever hide under the cloak of judicial independence," Estrada said, and added that Congress had the right to look into the financial records of government offices.

Estrada also said he smelled a conspiracy to whitewash the issue.

Open JDF books

Airing a similar view, Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo said Davide's declaration that he did not misuse the JDF would always be questioned unless he submitted to the process of impeachment and opened the JDF's books to public scrutiny.

"Chief Justice Davide being the highest magistrate of the land, we certainly would like to give him the benefit of the doubt," Saludo said. "But this matter has now become a very public issue, and the minimum requirement being sought by the people is for the Supreme Court to open its financial records. If there is nothing to hide, there should be no reason to prolong this crisis."

Why the rush?

But the Filipino Lawyers for Good Governance (Filgood) wanted to know: Why the rush to impeach the Chief Justice when the House proponents had yet to exhaust the chamber's own, less tumultuous means to probe the alleged misuse of the JDF?

Filgood appealed for sobriety among lawmakers and urged them to give the JDF issue another run at the House committee on justice.

This way, the impeachment process—if indeed it prospers—"will get its footing on facts rather than on the number of signatures," it said.

Not priority

"We are not defending Davide," FilGood chair Ricardo Abcede said at a hastily called press conference in Quezon City yesterday. "We are just saying that the impeachment trial should not be the priority. The issue is still whether the JDF was misused, and you don't need an impeachment trial to find that out."

Abcede said the public should be given a chance to appreciate the issue more clearly by having the House probe covered live by the media, and with resource persons from the private sector—like the SGV accountancy firm or the Philippine Institute of Public Accountants—invited to participate.

"There is still time before the situation gets worse," he said, adding that lawmakers could work out solutions by holding caucuses even though Congress is in recess.

FilGood, founded after the Edsa II uprising, is mostly composed of lawyers from San Beda College, Abcede said. *Reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Cynthia D. Balana, Armand Nocum and Volt Contreras in Manila; PDI Visayas Bureau*

Erap: I'll be behind him but FPJ is not my clone

From page A1

experience. Many will help. I'm here," Estrada said yesterday morning in reference to movie star Fernando Poe Jr., his best friend, whom the opposition is hoping to draft as its standard-bearer next year.

The ousted President phoned the INQUIRER to comment on the concern Poe raised Thursday to show biz and media friends: that unlike Estrada, he has never held public office and was lacking in experience to lead the country.

Estrada dismissed concerns that his buddy might end up being his dummy should the latter run for president—and win. But he admitted that his influence would loom large over a possible President Poe.

He said he has even offered Poe the help of former members of his Cabinet, including Secretaries Jose Pardo (finance), Benjamin Diokno (budget and management) and Felipe Medalla (economic planning).

But Poe "makes his own decisions" and will not be his clone, Estrada said.

And even if Poe becomes exactly that, "what's wrong with that?" Estrada demanded to know, and proceeded to recite a litany of his administration's supposed accomplishments, including raising the trust rating of the police to 58 percent, stemming the downward spiral of the Philippine economy, and improving peace and order.

No guarantee

Besides, experience and impressive academic credentials do not guarantee progress or good governance, Estrada pointed out.

He cited the case of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was schooled in economics both here and abroad but who, he said, has not been able to stop the ballooning budget deficit, stem corruption, address the unemployment problem and stop kidnappings for ransom.

Estrada, who needs knee surgery but wants this performed in the United States, said Poe was the reason why he would not agree to any deal with Malacañang.

No deal

He was reacting to speculation that the President's perceived mellowing stance toward him was the result of a political concession to gain the support of his loyal followers.

He insisted that an arrangement with the Palace was not likely to happen.

"I will never turn my back on a bosom friend who has supported me all these years in my campaign for mayor in San Juan, senator, vice president and president," he said. "If FPJ will run, I cannot do anything but support him the way he supported me."

Asked whether he would seek Ms Macapagal's help regarding his wish to fly to California for treatment, he said: "It's up to [the Palace] to have the heart to take my failing health into consideration.

Sacrifice

Estrada's physicians have said his arthritic knees had spawned other serious health concerns, including a multiple slipped disc and a "strangulated" spinal cord, that could result in paralysis.

His lawyers are to submit before the Sandiganbayan tomorrow a motion reiterating his previously denied request to be allowed to be treated by American surgeon Christopher Mow in California.

Lucky to be alive

Estrada reiterated that he would risk paralysis and not agree to surgery here if the motion would again be denied.

"I will do it as a sacrifice for God and country," he declared. "Ninoy did it by dying. As for me, I'm lucky to be alive."

He was referring to Benigno Aquino Jr., husband of former President Corazon Aquino, who was assassinated in 1983 upon his return to the Philippines from exile in the United States.

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GMA spends Day of the Dead pressing the flesh

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ALTHOUGH her people strongly denied it, President Macapagal-Arroyo appeared to be in campaign mode yesterday, as she went cemetery-hopping, wading into the sea of people visiting their dead and posing for pictures with them.

"*Walang pinipiling kamay si Presidente* (The President shook everyone's hand)," was how a radio reporter described the President's visit to the Manila North Cemetery where she prayed at the tombs of her grandparents.

It was her last stop for the day after visiting three other cemeteries and a church in Metro Manila.

Press Secretary Milton Alingod said the President visited the tombs of her relatives and went around to personally check the situation in the cemeteries.

"Of course there were many people so she shook hands with some of them," Alingod said, denying that the President took advantage of the occasion to campaign.

With children

"No. She wanted to see how things were going in the cemeteries," Alingod insisted.

The President first went to the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City where she laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and heard Mass for her parents, former President Diosdado Macapagal and first lady Eva Macaraeg.

Ms Macapagal was accompanied by her three children—Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey," Luli and Dato Arroyo. First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo is reportedly in the United States.

After eating breakfast with her family and some officials, including Alingod, Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the President went around the tombs of the soldiers and mingled with their relatives for one hour.

Picture-taking

She shook hands with them and gamely posed for pictures with the persistent ones.

The President used her appearance at the Libingan ng mga Bayani to make a pitch for unity and peace and the "strong republic."

Ms Macapagal next dropped by the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park where the ashes of her grandparents Irenea and Jose Macaraeg are interred.

The President then went to the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina to visit the tomb of her father-in-law, Ignacio Lacson Arroyo. More hand-shaking and picture-taking followed.

Ms Macapagal's next stop was the San Juan cemetery where she visited the tomb of Jesusa Lacson vda. de Pidal, a relative of the First Gentleman.

Father's words

She then visited the tombs of Arroyo's grandparents at the Manila North Cemetery.

At the tomb of her father, Ms Macapagal recalled his words: "The presidency is not a position to be enjoyed. It is a position where, for the good of the people, one must make sacrifices and if necessary, one must suffer."

"We all need to make our commensurate sacrifice in order to change society in a way that leads to a future that we Filipinos dream of and rightly deserve," she said.

She called on the Supreme Court and Congress to make a sacrifice by resolving the impeachment crisis.

The President arrived at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City at around 1 p.m. with sons Mikey and Dato.

'Not here'

Pressed to comment on the impeachment case, Ms Macapagal requested reporters not "to discuss the matter here."

Ms Macapagal arrived with more than a dozen presidential security guards. She had the windows of the presidential vehicle lowered down so people could see her. She waved a lot.

The President spent only seconds praying at the tomb and used most of her five-minute visit to chat with the people who had gathered around her. *With a report from Luige del Puerto*

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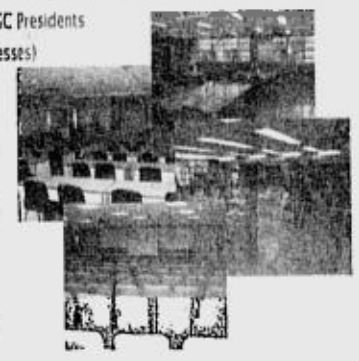

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 2, 2003
All Souls Day

1st Reading: 2 Mac 12:43-46

Judas took up a collection among his soldiers which amounted to two thousand pieces of silver and sent it to Jerusalem to be offered there as a sacrifice for sin.

They did all this very well and rightly inspired by their belief in the resurrection of the dead. If they did not believe that their fallen companions would rise again, then it would have been a useless and foolish thing to pray for them. But they firmly believed in a splendid reward for those who died as believers; therefore, their concern was holy and in keeping with faith.

This was the reason why Judas had this sacrifice offered for the dead—so that the dead might be pardoned for their sin.

2nd Reading: Rom 8:31-35, 37-39

But no, Christ has been raised from the dead and he comes before all those who have fallen asleep. A human being brought death; a human being also brings resurrection of the dead. All die for being Adam, and in Christ all will receive life. However, each one in his own time: first Christ, then Christ's people, when he visits them.

Then the end will come, when Christ delivers the kingdom to God the Father, after having destroyed every rule, authority and power. For he must reign and put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed will be death. As Scripture says: God has subjected everything under his feet.

When we say that everything is put under his feet, we exclude, of course, the Father who subjects everything to him. When the Father has subjected everything to him, the Son will place himself under the One who subjected everything to him. From then on, God will be all in all.

Gospel: Jn 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be troubled; trust in God and trust in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. Otherwise I would not have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. After I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall come again and take you to me, so that where I am, you also may be. Yet you know the way where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

Commentary

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." Life expectancy is getting longer with the advancement of science and medicine. But whether one lives up to 60 or 70 or 80 or 90 years, the end is still the same, death. How do we confront death? For us Christians, the mystery of death is unmasked with the coming of Jesus. For us death is not the end of the road, death is only a transformation from an earthly dwelling to a heavenly one, from the physical body to a spiritual body, from a death in this earthly life to a birth in the kingdom of God. St. Paul says that if we are united with Jesus in his death on the cross, we will be united also with him in his resurrection. This is our hope and this is our faith.

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NPA admits raid

HAGONOY, Bulacan —The New People's Army unit operating in Bulacan and Pampanga has claimed responsibility for the attack on a police detachment in this town Thursday night. Three members of the Philippine National Police's maritime command were killed in the attack.

In a press statement, the NPA described the attack as a "major success" against the government.

The statement accused the maritime command of protecting the interests of big fishpond owners in the area to the detriment of poor small fishermen.

"The command is an eager arm of the government in driving away poor fishermen from their fishing grounds. They protect the interests of big businessmen while treating the small fishermen as their enemies," the statement in Filipino said.

Killed in the attack were PO1 Teodirico Collado, PO3 Leonardo Paulino and SPO1 Roberto Dinlasan.

Reports said seven rebels wearing camouflage police uniforms attacked the detachment located near a river and the town's public market. The outpost is also near the town's police station. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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FOR THE fun and funds of it, the Philippine United Senior Citizens Association held a Filipiniana fashion show that was such a hit, it had a repeat performance. The members meet every Tuesday at the New Manila residence of founder Luz Gonzales to dance, to learn how to go into small business, to share their joys and pains and to grow old gracefully together. JOAN BONDOC

In their twilight years, Golden Girls find life's meaning

From page A1

when they were coming.

"When people heard the bells, they would close their doors and windows and not get out of their houses until the people with leprosy had passed," Gonzales said.

Association of senior citizens

Her involvement with people with leprosy ate up most of her time that her husband sometimes even got envious of her charity work.

After her husband died, Gonzales went to the United States in the late 1980s to live with one of her two children. There she took care of her grandchild Erol.

To satisfy her craving for charity work, she also joined an international association of senior citizens.

Gonzales' life was shattered when Erol died in 1994.

"It was the worst tragedy of my life," she says.

When the family opted to bury Erol's remains in the Philippines, Gonzales decided it was also time for her to come home so she could visit Erol's grave everyday.

A group is born

To put new meaning to her life, Gonzales created the Philippine United Senior Citizens' Association (Pusca), drawing inspiration from the senior citizens group she had joined when she was living abroad.

"I was envious because in other countries senior citizens were happily growing old. So I decided to come up with our own group here," Gonzales says.

From 20 founding members, Pusca's membership grew to 92,000.

Pusca seeks to empower older people. The group conducts lectures on small business opportunities that members might want to consider. It also offers Bible studies, free medical and dental checkups and reflexology lessons.

Companionship

But more importantly, Pusca offers to its members the companionship, fun and love they sorely miss in their old age.

"These people feel they are not wanted anymore. They feel useless," Gonzales says. "Pusca wants to erase that feeling."

Among the *lolas* who never fail to attend the weekly Tuesday meetings at Gonzales' house in New Manila, Quezon City, is Martina Bocalbos.

At 85, Bocalbos can still walk and dance with the agility of a 40-year-old.

Bocalbos, who hails from Tondo, Manila, has lived alone most of her life.

Her mother died when she was 7; her father died a year later. Her two siblings died during World War II.

She got married at 16, had two miscarriages, and never had a child with her husband who died in 1972.

"It's very difficult to be alone. While it's good because you don't have to take care of anyone, it's painful living by yourself. At night I find myself crying. But what can I do?" Bocalbos said in Filipino.

After her husband died, Bocalbos said she had a lot of suitors.

"Until now some are still courting me," she said with a smile.

I've got a crush on you

A few years ago, Bocalbos developed a crush on a widower her age.

But just as her heart was slowly waking up from decades of slumber, the man died.

"I don't know. Maybe I was destined to be alone," she said, hiding her disappointment with a soft laugh.

Her friends, all of them younger than she is, often tease this faith healer that she would reach 100.

Her secret to long life, she said, is herbal medicine, a lot of dancing and faith.

"He was the one who gave me life," she said, looking up to the heavens. "He knows when He would need me up there."

In the meantime, Bocalbos is happy to spend her remaining years with her friends at Pusca.

Lola supermodels

Three weeks ago, Pusca members staged a fashion show in Manila to raise not only funds but also their spirits.

Wearing Filipiniana clothes designed by Gonzales, several *lolas* took to the catwalk like supermodels, their heads held up high, albeit with wobbly knees.

The show was such a huge success that the *lola* supermodels were invited to stage another show in Bulacan next month.

"I know the feeling when you are on stage—all attention is focused on you. These *lolas* never experienced the feeling of having people applauding them. I knew it would boost their morale," Gonzales said.

Lola Madonna

One of the "supermodels" was Madonna Loyola, 75.

She said she felt like a queen when she hit the catwalk. She wore a red *kimona* with colorful sequins, matching the colorful strands of her hair.

Her hair, now dyed golden yellow, and beaded bracelets could rival the getup of teenagers.

If she looks familiar, it's because Loyola has appeared in several television programs and had some TV commercials.

Her real name is Pacita Loyola.

She joined a TV variety show's lip synch contest in 1986. Her piece was Madonna's "Material Girl." After she won that contest, she promptly changed her name to Madonna.

She said winning the contest started the "best years of my life," and led to the realization of her dream of being in show business.

In her bit roles she is often asked to wear sexy clothes, seduce gorgeous actors or compete with much younger women as part of the comic act.

Loyola says she enjoys it when people laugh at her.

"I'm happier now that I am old," Loyola says.

Tuesday meetings until...

This Tuesday, and the rest of the coming Tuesdays of their lives, Loyola, Bocalbos and other Pusca members will meet in Gonzales' house to share their joys and their pains, to dance the boogie, chacha and the Sex Bomb Dancers' "Spagetti Song."

They would momentarily forget their arthritic legs and hands, their blurry eyesight and their deteriorating agility.

Once more they would smile as they recall the memories of being young once.

Until they join their final show—up there. Until Gonzales goes to what she calls her final home, beside that of her favorite grandson, Erol.

(Lolos and lolas can reach Luz Gonzales and Pusca at 725-5395.)

Murdered sons' ma now preaches forgiveness

From page A1.

ago when her sons Paul, 31, and Michael, 27, were shot dead by at least a dozen assailants at a birthday party in Mamburao, Quintos says the exercise of faith, patience, temperance and fortitude has been a daily struggle in her family.

She says it has been her daily commitment to forgive, to heal, to keep her faith and to convince others to live their Christian values amid persecution.

An active member of the Opus Dei, Quintos shares her experiences and her faith with both the underprivileged of society and the privileged who are in a position to help them.

QUINTOS

Livelihood project

She has taught 29 community groups in Occidental Mindoro to pool their savings for their livelihood through the Piso at Puso project of the Developmental Advocacy for Women's Volunteerism (Dove) Foundation.

The foundation trains women with the means and the heart to deal with the poor for volunteer work. Former President Aquino and the wives of the former secretaries of her Cabinet went to the Dove Foundation to train for their personal outreach projects.

Charity does not mean doleouts but contributing to complete the development of the person, says Quintos, who is also active in the Educhild Foundation, a group that offers seminars to young parents to teach them how to bring up God-fearing, loving and responsible children.

"You have to start from childhood. Values come naturally from the family. If the family lives in a well-organized manner, there is no reason society should be as it is now," Quintos says.

12 children

She and her husband, former Occidental Mindoro legislator Ricardo Quintos, have raised 12 "God-honoring children who respected the law even when it was painful to do so".

She says with much pride that none of her children ever thought of retaliation even after seeing their brothers' bullet-riddled bodies.

Occidental Mindoro Gov. Jose T. Villarosa, along with 17 others, was charged with double murder for the killing of the Quintos brothers. Villarosa is out on bail while six other suspects who were arrested remain in jail because they were unable to raise the P400,000 bail bond.

The double murder case is being tried at the Quezon City regional trial court which is now hearing the rebuttal of evidence.

"It takes a lot of heroism to practice virtues. You can only expect perfect justice from a just government. The system has a lot of imperfections so we just have to do what we have to do the best way we can," Quintos says.

No to death penalty

Unlike many victims of heinous crimes, Quintos does not want the death penalty for her sons' killers whom she considers to be "unenlightened" and to have been used by more powerful forces.

"My family will continue praying for these people who caused us sorrow and pain and anguish," she says.

"We wish for them conversion of hearts, remorse of conscience, courage in the admission of their guilt, restitution, rectification and reformation... but not execution," Quintos stresses.

She said the killers would not experience conversion if they are executed.

The Quintos couple were to fly to Mindoro this weekend to visit Michael's hilltop grave in Mamburao, close to the family home and the people he served. His grave is being maintained by his constituents.

Paul, who is survived by his wife, fashion designer Michelle Sison, and son Geo, is buried at the Manila North Cemetery.

Life of the party

All the 12 Quintos children and 17 grandchildren, except for one daughter and her family who live in the United States, get together every Sunday as a way of building up each other's faith and love.

Paul and Michael, whom everyone agreed were the life of every family party, are always missed at these gatherings.

But those who are left draw courage to move on from the bigger faith and stronger family ties that their brothers' deaths have brought, says Quintos.

"In the end, if we do not get justice here, we will have justice in heaven," she says.

Roco '04 campaign adopts floral ...

From page A1

use the line with me wearing the first shirt."

Also a former education secretary, he was once invited to speak at St. Scholastica's College. The student council president had one request: "Can you come in a flowered shirt, sir?"

When Roco asked why, the student leader simply said, "Because if you don't, you will have to explain why."

Just kidding

INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc pointed out that he looked "bigger" in the florals. Roco replied, "Well, I must work on my weight, not on the shirt."

When the prospect of the official presidential *barong* with flowers came up, Magsanoc could only say, "Oh, my God!"

Even Roco had to laugh at this reaction. He was quick to recover, though. Maybe it didn't have to be colorful, he said; the *barong* could be in the usual white or beige, as long as it had floral embroidery. He said his personal favorite was the *gumamela* (hibiscus).

Roco pointed out that he had been wearing floral shirts long before Manila Mayor Lito Atienza did. It was a political "technique," he admitted. "For instance, Ramos chomped on cigars. It's really for the cartoonists."

Why not stripes?

The fashion remake started in preparation for the 1998 presidential elections. He didn't want stripes, Roco recounted, because several big names who had lost in previous elections—like Ramon Mitra—had worn stripes.

VARIATION on the same theme of flora and fauna, the signature wardrobe of the leading presidential bet. AP PHOTO

So he went around Kamuning, wondering about a signature look. He stepped into a store and, holding up a certain fabric, asked the owner: "Would you vote for me if I wore this? She said, 'No.' Then I pointed to another one with a floral design. She said, 'Yes.' *Binili ko isang bulto* (I bought an entire bolt)."

Thus during that campaign, it seemed that he was wearing the same shirt over and over: blue flowers on white. "I had 18 shirts made out of that single bolt."

At first, he said, his wife Sonia wondered about his choice. As soon as it became apparent that he was going to stick to it, however, she apparently decided she might as well have a say in it.

Pointing to his black flowers-on-red number, Roco proudly said, "She bought this for me."

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2003 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

133 Oakwood mutineers freed

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SAYING they had been "deceived and misled," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the release of 133 detained officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who participated in the failed July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

The President said the soldiers' release was part of her policy of "leniency and reconciliation with justice." She arrived at the decision after receiving a recommendation from AFP chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya earlier in the day.

Ms Macapagal said Abaya had also recommended that 51 other officers and enlisted personnel be spared from courts martial after a pre-trial investigation found they did not have prior knowledge that they were joining a mutiny.

But she said the 51—four officers and 47 enlisted personnel—would be meted out administrative sanctions commensurate to their "established meager participation."

Upon recommendation of the investigating panel, the President said, a total of 270 mutineers would be charged before a general court martial for complicity in the commission of offenses under the Articles of War.

"The wheels of military justice now start turning," she said. "The 270 military personnel stand to be tried before the general court martial on account of their complicity in espousing extra-legal means to accomplish and justify an unlawful end."

Mutiny is punishable by life imprisonment.

Of the 270, 94 are officers and 176 enlisted personnel. This group includes Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and other mutiny leaders.

Press Secretary Milton Alingod said the President earlier ordered the release of 356 mutineers who "voluntarily left" the Oakwood Premier Hotel in Makati City hours before the entire group was persuaded to surrender.

The mutineers had demanded the resignation of Ms Macapagal and then Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, both of whom they accused of corruption.

Failing to rally public support and more military units to their side, the rebels surrendered about 20 hours later. *With reports from AP and Reuters*

Report on AFP weaknesses nothing new, admits officer

A SENIOR military official yesterday confirmed the findings of a study that exposed the operational weaknesses of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, saying it was not surprising at all.

The Joint Defense Assessment report, prepared by experts from the United States Pacific Command and the AFP, cited the Philippine military's limitations in areas such as ground mobility, air assault capability, intelligence and communications equipment.

"That's true; that's not surprising. It's not anything new. It confirms what we have been saying all along that we need to build and upgrade the AFP which is lagging behind other armed forces," said AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia.

In a phone interview, Garcia said that even before the assessment report came out, the military had been suffering from inadequacy of equipment.

The assessment report, Garcia pointed out, only highlighted the need for the government to raise the budget of the military so it could develop its capabilities on its own, and without aid from other countries.

"There needs to be a willful realization among us to legislate funding budget for the AFP to acquire some basic capability requirements," he said.

Garcia said the military top brass had proposed a budget for 2004 which is higher than this year's P43 billion, but he could not give exact figures. The House of Representatives started its budget hearings last week.

"We can't keep on depending on outside help. While the US has been generous with security assistance, now than before, still it's important that we develop our capability. This is not any other country's problem," he said.

"The AFP must be able to perform in the most optimum way. That could be realized with more equipment. The AFP should be capable to attend to the requirements of peace and order; it should be on able footing when it comes to security," he said.

Garcia, however, said that despite the limitations, the military has so far been able to maintain law and order, and contain internal security threats posed by the communist New People's Army, the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

"We may fall short of equipment and wherewithal, but we don't fall short in our efforts (to maintain security)," he said, adding that the military has been making do with its insufficient air and naval assets to counter all threats to national security.

The government is set to resume formal peace talks with the secessionist MILF in Kuala Lumpur this month. *TJ Burgonio*

Isabela crash kills 1

ILAGAN, Isabela—A man was killed while five other persons were injured when a Cagayan-bound bus overturned while negotiating a sharp curve at Barangay Malapat, Cordon, Isabela on Saturday morning.

Chief Insp. Abraham Balderas, Isabela police information officer, said the man, whom he did not identify pending the notification of his relatives, was pinned inside the Autobus bus.

Balderas identified the five injured passengers as Mauricia Recheta, Richie Cardenas, Amalia Victoria, and Eloisa Babaran and her son, Joshua Babaran, all of Tuao, Cagayan. They were brought to the De Vera Hospital in Santiago City for treatment.

Reports said the bus was carrying 47 passengers and left Metro Manila on Friday night.

Driver Rudy Cauilan told police a woman suddenly crossed the street in front of him, forcing him to step on the brakes. This caused the bus to roll over, he said.

But witnesses said the bus was overtaking another bus on the slippery road when Cauilan lost control of the vehicle.

Villamor Visaya Jr., Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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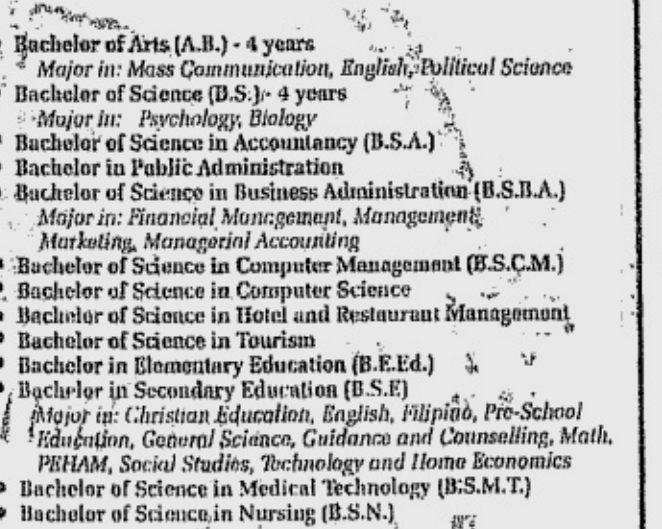

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Powell: No proof Saddam coordinating Iraq attacks

WASHINGTON—US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Friday there is no evidence to suggest ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is coordinating some of the attacks against US forces in Iraq.

Powell, in an interview to be aired on ABC television's "Nightline" program, flatly rejected comments of unnamed senior US officials who were quoted in the New York Times as saying there were indications Saddam may be directing attacks from his hometown of Tikrit.

"I speak on the record and I don't know what these sources or who they were saying, but when I saw the story and came in and pulled up all the intelligence I could from my people as well as talking to the people at the agency, I don't know the basis of those stories," Powell said.

"I don't know where he is or what he's doing, but we really don't have the evidence to put together a claim that he is pulling all the strings among these remnants in Baghdad and other parts of the country that are causing us the difficulty," he said.

"There is no evidence to support that issue," Powell said, according to a transcript of the interview released by the State Department.

Meanwhile, the number of American casualties in Iraq continue to build up.

On Saturday, a roadside bomb killed at least two US soldiers in Mosul, and many parents kept children away from classes in the capital after leaflets attributed to Saddam's party warned of a "Day of Resistance" against the US occupation.

Early Saturday, witnesses said an oil pipeline was on fire about 15 km north of Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, an area of widespread opposition to the occupation. Witnesses said they suspected sabotage because the blaze was preceded by an explosion.

Sabotage to pipelines and the decayed state of Iraqi's infrastructure have slowed efforts to revive the country's giant oil industry, considered the key to rebuilding this nation's economy.

The latest attacks came after rumors swept Baghdad that bombings or other resistance action would strike the capital Saturday. A leaflet attributed to Saddam's ousted Baathist party declared Saturday a "Day of Resistance," and called for a three-day general strike.

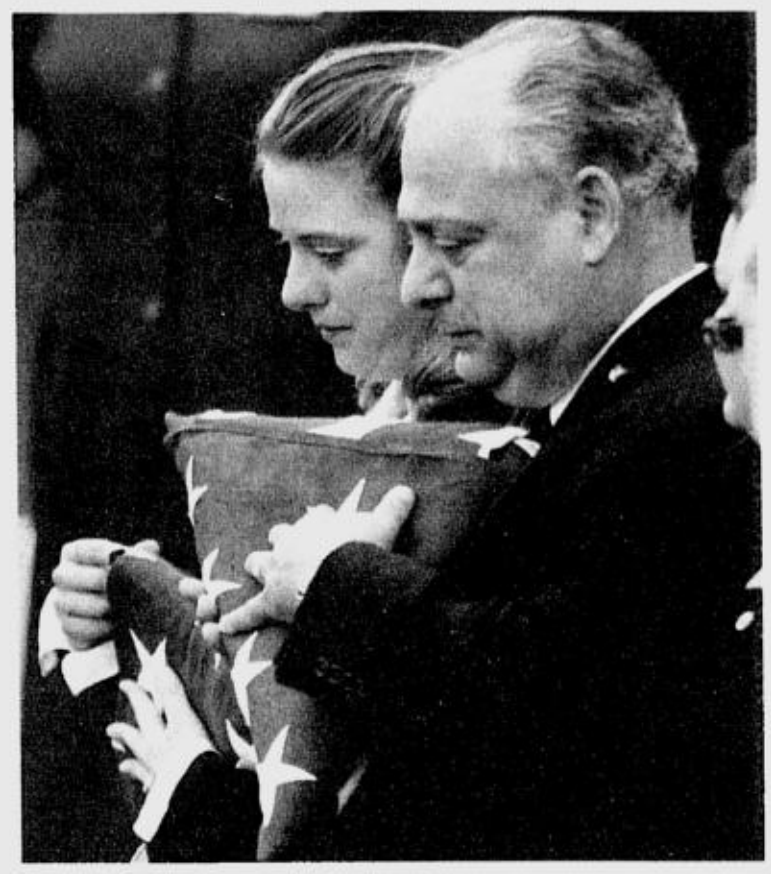
It was difficult to gauge public response to threat. Many shops in Bagdhad were open, but morning traffic appeared lighter than usual. Many parents kept their children at home Saturday, the first day of the Iraqi work week.

In Mosul, the US military also said two soldiers were also wounded in the roadside bombing, which Iraqi police initially reported as a land mine.

Late Friday, another US soldier was injured in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, when his patrol was attacked by a grenade or homemade bomb, the military said.

The Times reported earlier Friday that the United States had intelligence that Saddam was indeed playing role in at least some of the increasingly frequent attacks, citing senior US officials.

One official cautioned that the reports were uncorroborated, but three others described the reports as credible, according to the newspaper. *AFP, AP*



CHRISTINE Bellavia, left, wife of Army Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Bellavia and his father, Joseph Bellavia, right, hold flags given to them during funeral services Oct. 31, at Arlington National Cemetery. Sgt. Bellavia was killed in Iraq on Oct. 16 as members of the 716th Military Police Battalion were trying to negotiate with a group of armed men who opened fire near a mosque in Karbala. AP

American consumers' mood brighter; job hopes grow

NEW YORK—The mood of American consumers brightened a little in October, after they took a break from spending last month, according to reports on Friday that pointed to growth moderating from the breakneck pace in the third quarter.

A separate report on Midwest businesses showed a jump in activity in October and an encouraging lift in employment to its highest level since January 2000, bolstering optimism that the economic recovery is finally on solid ground.

With the economy coming off its strongest growth in nearly two decades, the University of Michigan said its index of consumer sentiment for October rose to 89.6 from 87.7, the first increase in three months and in line with forecasts.

Better economic news and tantalizing signs of job growth seem to have lifted consumers' spirits.

"Consumers are going to slow down because you can't really maintain the pace you saw in the third quarter, but they're not likely to disappear from the ballgame," said Lehman Brothers economist Drew Matus.

"There are indications that a sustainable recovery is underway. There's going to be good growth for several quarters," he said.

US Treasury prices edged higher after the economic reports and the dollar strengthened on the jobs reading. The main US stock market indexes closed steady, with the broad S&P 500 index finishing up 3.77 at 1,050.71.

Separately, the National Association of Purchasing Management-Chicago business barometer rose to 55.0 from an unexpectedly weak 51.2 in September. The figure was close to forecasts but included an unexpected surge in the employment component to 53.1 from 45.3.

That raised hopes the national payrolls report for October, due next week, could show another moderate gain after September rose for the first time in eight months. Preliminary forecasts are for a rise of 55,000, after a gain of 57,000 in September.

A top White House economist said he expected US job growth to ramp up over the next few months. *Reuters*

Meat, milk from cloned animals safe, US agency says

WASHINGTON—Meat and milk from cloned animals is "likely" to be as safe to consume as non-cloned food products, but won't be on supermarket shelves soon, a government agency said in a draft report released Friday.

"Edible products from normal, healthy clones or their progeny do not appear to pose increased food consumption risk relative to comparable products from conventional animals," concluded the Food and Drug Administration study.

Pending further study, however, "these products should not be released into the food supply," said the study, which examined mainly cattle, pigs and goats. It said little information was available on sheep.

"We are not allowing cloned animals to enter into the food chain at this point," said deputy FDA commissioner Lester Crawford. "That decision has not been made. The moratorium remains in effect until we evaluate the data."

"We do recognize that there is a societal concern about this technology," he said. "So we would expect there would be public comments.

Carol Tucker Foreman, in charge of food policy for the Consumers Federation of America, dismissed the FDA report, saying it contained only data "from groups who support animal cloning."

"The FDA prides itself on being a science-driven agency," she said. "But in this case it seems to have been driven more by political pressure to promote animal cloning than to protect public health."

"We do not suggest banning animal cloning." said Foreman. "We do urge that the nation have a discussion of the appropriate uses. The public should have the right and the ability to determine whether to support this action by consuming these foods." *AFP*

California blazes slow down rampage

LOS ANGELES—California's wildfires slowed their rampage through brush-choked mountains as storms moved in and firefighters solidified gains made in containing the huge and destructive blazes.

"Overall, we have had very little additional activity for the fires today," Ray Snodgrass, chief deputy director of the state's forestry department, told a late Friday briefing.

Snodgrass reported that each of the six fires still being tracked was at least 25 percent contained—progress made by ground crews digging trenches by hand and with bulldozers around the fires' perimeters.

"We hope to get through the next period of weather, continue with construction of fire lines and continue with mop-up operations so when the weather clears... we are able to hold the fires where they are," he said.

Significant rain and snowfall were forecast for the hard-hit mountain areas in San Bernardino and San Diego counties, where firestorms incinerated entire suburban neighborhoods.

Late Friday, a flash flood ripped through the northern part of the burn region in Ventura County and National Weather Service forecasters warned of mudslides. *Reuters*

A RELIGIOUS statue is one of the few items still standing on a property destroyed by fire in the community of Cedar Glen, near Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles, Oct. 31. AFP

Bush weakened but still holding good hand

By Jean-Louis Doublet

CRAWFORD, Texas—A year out from the 2004 presidential election, US President George W. Bush is weakened by deteriorating security in Iraq, but still holds a good hand thanks to an economic rebound and generous donors.

Thursday's announcement that economic growth hit a blistering 7.2 percent in the third quarter, the strongest quarter in 19 years, came just as the Republican president sought justification for his policy of stimulating the economy with tax cuts.

The economy has so far been the president's weak flank in his battle for a second four-year term. The rebound will have to last long enough to lower the unemployment rate, another stone in Bush's shoe. At 6.2 percent, the percentage of workers seeking jobless benefits is the highest in nine years.

Bush's real advantage ahead of the Nov. 2, 2004 general election is his strike force of campaign donors. He has already pocketed at least $85 million for phase one of the campaign: the primary elections in which each party chooses its candidate.

His goal for September's Republican Convention in New York is to collect $200 million—a record for a presidential campaign.

Although his nine Democratic rivals will have to bicker over their share of Democratic moneys, Bush has no Republican opponents so far. His father, George Bush, was stymied in his 1992 election bid in part by Ross Perot's independent candidacy.

For months, the 57-year-old president has crisscrossed the country appearing at fund raisers.

He met potential donors at one such event Thursday night in San Antonio, Texas, where he served as governor before moving to the White House three years ago. On the way, he stopped over in Columbus, Ohio.

His approval ratings are about right for a president at this stage of his first term. At just over 50 percent, his popularity has dropped from his sky-high ratings just after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and the storming of Baghdad in April.

His popularity began unraveling along with security in Iraq, a growing concern among Americans.

Bush has already tipped his hand, showing his strategy during the upcoming campaign.

"I will defend my record at the appropriate time and look forward to it.

"I'll say that the world is more peaceful and more free under my leadership, and America is more secure.

"That will be how I'll begin describing our foreign policy," he told reporters this week.

"What we see in Iraq, as played out in the American mind, is the lessons of Munich battling the lessons of Vietnam," University of Boston professor Lance Morrow said.

"The lessons of Munich say: 'Aggressors must be vigorously and promptly and actively opposed.'

"The lessons of Vietnam say: 'Don't go rushing with all your immense power into foreign wars, especially those involving people not of your race or background.'

"That way lies 'quagmire,' the dreaded word."

More than the economy, "Iraq and national security may well be the Achilles' heel for this president's reelection," said an editorial in The Wall Street Journal, a conservative business daily that backs the president. *AFP*

Witness says she still loves accused in trial

VANCOUVER, Canada—The star government witness in the Air India terrorism trial here told the judge Friday about her life with one of the men accused of the bombings, saying that she still loves him.

The woman's testimony is key to prosecution charges that Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri conspired to plant bombs on Air India jets in 1985, murdering 331 people.

Malik hired the woman to work from 1992 to 1997 at the Khalsa School in the suburban community of Surrey near here. Prosecutors have told the court she will testify that she and Malik were in love, and that Malik confided his role in the bombings to her.

Two suitcase bombs that originated in this western Canadian city exploded on June 23, 1995.

The first bomb killed two baggage handlers at Japan's Narita airport, as the bags were transferred to Air India Flight 301. The second bomb blew up Air India Flight 182 as the jet approached the coast of Ireland. All 329 people aboard died.

Malik, a wealthy Vancouver businessman, is accused of paying for and helping to organize the plane tickets used to plant the bombs.

The woman is expected to testify about what Malik told her about his role, and name others who helped him. She told the British Columbia Supreme Court that she still loves and respects Malik, who hired her to manage an early childhood center at the Khalsa School. Malik was the president of the Satnam Education Society, which ran the school. *AFP*

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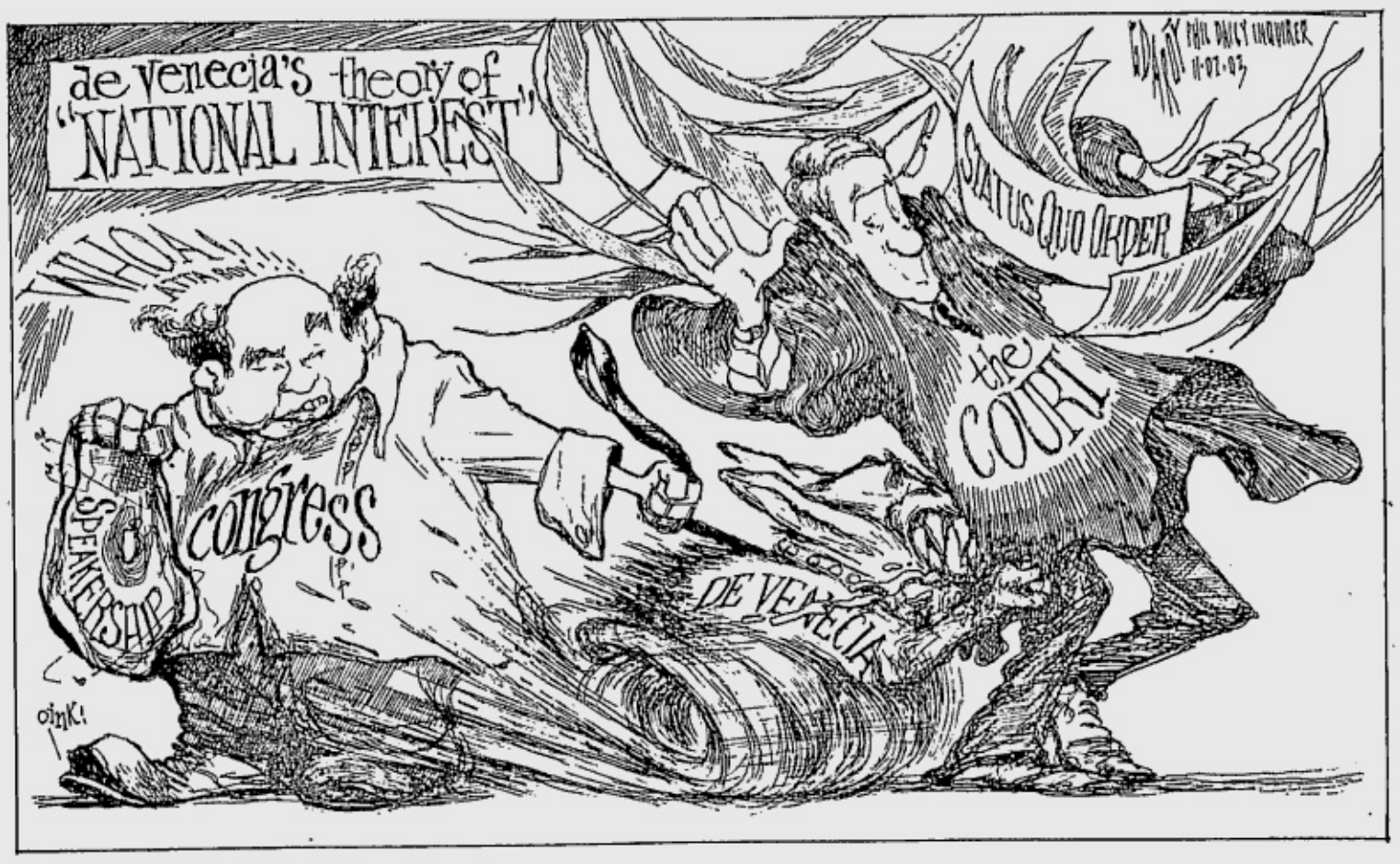

A way out

CHANGING tack, Senate President Franklin Drilon on Thursday called on the Supreme Court to show the country the way out of the impeachment impasse. "In the higher interest of the nation, to avoid the deterioration of the political and constitutional crises, the Supreme Court should decide on the petitions" pending before it, he said in a news briefing.

EDITORIAL

We think the co-leader of one of the three co-equal branches of government is on to something.

Six petitions have been filed with the high court, seeking a stop to the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., on the ground that it is unconstitutional.

When the representatives allied with Nationalist People's Coalition founder and San Miguel Corp. CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. mustered more than 76 signatures for the second complaint on Oct. 23, triggering the crisis, Drilon immediately stepped into the breach. He said the question of constitutionality could be resolved by the Senate, convened as an impeachment court.

One week after the crisis started, however, Drilon changed his tune. In a prepared statement he read aloud, he said: "These are extraordinary times that call for extraordinary remedies. We should defuse the tension the best way we can."

Drilon then outlined four possible scenarios, each one dependent on an SC decision. What is extraordinary about them? Nothing much-except that in each scenario the Senate is giving way to the tribunal's exercise of judicial power. He found strong support in the administration maverick, Sen. Joker Arroyo.

On Friday, opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara took both to task. Drilon and Arroyo were "abdicating their responsibility to defend the institutional integrity of the Senate." Because impeachment is a political problem, Angara said, it requires a "political solution (rather) than a legal solution."

The problem with Angara's interpretation is that it is not based on the 1987 Constitution. By blithely assuming that the "political question" doctrine applies absolutely to the impeachment crisis, Angara is basing his argument on a fundamental law and a body of jurisprudence that have already been brought into the present.

The 1987 Constitution defines the judicial power vested in the "courts of justice" as including "the duty" to "determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the Government." In his annotations on the Charter, Constitutional Commissioner Joaquin Bernas, SJ bluntly notes: "This is a protection against easy appeal to the 'political questions' doctrine."

That doctrine holds that the courts cannot involve themselves in disputes that are political in nature. But the first question before the Supreme Court, which precedes even the issue of constitutionality, is eminently about lack or excess of jurisdiction. Did the House commit a grave abuse of discretion when it passed a second impeachment complaint against Davide in less than a year, and when the committee conducting an inquiry into the allegations against him had not yet reached any conclusion?

Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr., the NPC leader in the House and one of the two principal signatories of the second complaint, does not frame the problem in the same way. For him, the "main issue" can be reduced to a simple thesis: "the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction over Congress."

But this is a misreading of the situation, based on misplaced institutional pride. On questions of constitutionality, the SC has jurisdiction over everyone, including foreigners in the country. On questions of grave abuse of discretion, it has jurisdiction over "any branch or instrumentality of the Government." On these matters, the language of the 1987 Constitution is unmistakable; even congressmen can understand it.

If Teodoro doesn't like it, he can campaign to rewrite the Charter. In the meantime, however, he has no business defying it. He should learn from Drilon and other like-minded senators. They have shown us that a coequal branch of government does not lose its dignity, its institutional integrity, if it allows the language of the basic law of the land to become living reality.

Tempest in a teapot?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THERE seems to be some paranoia among many people who are getting hysterical about the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. They are afraid it is going to cause a constitutional crisis that will tear the nation apart and destroy our republican institutions.

The mere fact that the respondent is the head of the judiciary is to them violative of its independence and the doctrine of separation of powers. They forget, or do not know, that the Chief Justice is among the high officials who may be impeached under the Constitution.

President Joseph Estrada, then the highest official in the government, was impeached in 2000 by authority of that supreme law. There was no talk then of violating his independence as head of the executive department. I see no reason why the current impeachment should be faulted simply because it is directed against the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Protests have also been raised about the motives of the legislators who voted for his impeachment. The claim is that they were politically motivated to serve private ends. Those who signed the resolution were predominantly from the Nationalist People's Coalition headed by Eduardo Cojuangco and were reinforced by members of the Lakas under President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The suspicion is that Cojuangco signaled the impeachment in retaliation for the decision of the Supreme Court denying his claim to the coconut levy fund. Some people say that Ms Macapagal could have stopped the move but did not do so and in fact helped it through some members of her party. The price, it is charged, was Cojuangco's support for her election bid next year.

Such speculations, even assuming them to be true, should not invalidate the impeachment for that reason alone. Evil motives are a commonplace in the dirty world of politics. As long as the resolution to impeach is supported by at least one-third of the members of the House of Representatives, it does not matter if they are not exactly saintly.

Even the Devil can quote scripture, so it is said, and Davide's accusers, no matter how impious, are entitled to be heard in support of their charges. Challenging their motives is to me irrelevant even if they are certainly vicious and contemptible. What should matter is the evidence of the parties, and only that evidence.

The impact on the judiciary is only a collateral issue that could be a good topic for speechifying but not lawyering. Soap-box ranting ill becomes an academic discussion.

The basic question is whether or not the present impeachment move is allowed under the Constitution, which provides in its Art. XI, Sec. 3(5) that "no impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

Davide says the current impeachment complaint is barred under this provision because the recently dismissed complaint against him and several other justices (for sustaining Estrada's replacement) was filed only on June 2 of this year. The present proceedings have been initiated within the same year.

My own humble view is that the proceedings are deemed initiated only upon the filing of the impeachment resolution by the House of Representatives with the Senate as the High Court of Impeachment. A criminal action is deemed initiated not upon complaint of the offended party with the prosecutor's office but upon the filing of the corresponding information with the proper court. A similar rule should apply to impeachment even if it may not be considered criminal in nature.

The contrary view would make it easy for an impeachable official to insulate himself against removal through this process. All he has to do is have himself impeached on a weak ground by any citizen with the endorsement of a member of the House of Representatives as allowed under Art. XI, Sec. 3(2) of the Constitution. He may repeat this deceit every year and thus prevent his honest-to-goodness impeachment during his entire tenure.

But before all this, the current impasse between the Supreme Court and Congress must first be resolved. I hope that the views of the several *amici curiae* appointed by the Court, who are supposed to be constitutional experts, will guide the parties to an amicable accommodation of their conflicting positions.

As a lawyer, I prefer to reserve my opinion on the impeachment case until I shall have heard the arguments of both sides. Press releases, paid advertisements and prayer rallies cannot decide constitutional issues. Evidence *pro* and *con* must be submitted and considered at the proper proceeding before a fair judgment can be rendered. Meanwhile, Chief Justice Davide, whose rectitude I deeply admire, should be presumed innocent.

The fact that more than one-third of the House of Representatives signed the impeachment resolution reflects sadly on the quality of the chamber itself. The report that they were bought with millions of pesos condemns not only them but contaminates the entire membership. It is like a cancer gnawing at only a part of the body but threatening the life itself of the patient.

The Davide impeachment should arouse the whole nation to the folly with which we have been electing our officials. It is a symptom that, unless corrected, will lead to the death of our democracy.

Are you sleeping?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a Sunday school teacher who asked her children on their way to church: "Now children, why is it necessary for us to be quiet in church?" After some moments, one bright little girl replied: "Because people are sleeping"!

* * *

Today, All Souls' Day, we commemorate those who are asleep in the Lord. We are reminded in today's Gospel (Mt. 25, 31-46), to be up and about, and to be awake and busy doing good. Are you sleeping on your job of doing good for others? The time will come when we will run out of time. You and I can say anything we want about the lives we are living, and come up with a thousand and one reasons why we are living the way we are living, but the bottom line is what Jesus tells us today: "Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Sad to say, for some, money is the bottom line and nothing follows. Right, with money, nothing follows. But with love, eternity follows.

* * *

Are you preparing for eternity? Reminds me of the story of a little girl who came home from Sunday school and said to her mother: "Mom, the teacher told us today that God put people in this world so that they can get ready for heaven. Why don't we see anybody getting ready?" How true. We see a lot of people getting ready for their careers, or for their retirement, and definitely, for next year's elections, but very few are really preparing for heaven. Are you?

* * *

Even now we can distinguish who are the goats and the sheep among us. For one who experienced raising goats, I can only say that goats have an insatiable appetite. They will eat anything and everything. They never stop chewing and eating. Don't goats remind you of some people in our country who are so greedy and won't stop at anything and won't stop for anyone (our Filipino people) in their search for more wealth and power.?

* * *

Got this text message: "Time was when you met a politician, you'd proudly shake his/her hand. Now, when you meet one, you shake your head." Amen.

* * *

Travel light. This is the thumb rule for all of us who are on the way. We are all pilgrims in this world. We are not immigrants here! There are people who claim that they need provisions along the way, that's why they have to keep money and wealth in their pockets. May I ask: how much money do you need in this life? When is enough really enough? May I remind you too that when your pockets get too heavy, you will find the journey difficult and cumbersome. And, if you are too laden, you may not be able to reach your final destination. *Sige. Ikaw rin. Bukod sa mahihirapan ka sa biyahe, baka hindi ka makarating* (Careful, aside from making the journey difficult, you may not reach your destination).

* * *

As we visit the tombs and the graves of people who have gone ahead of us, let us be reminded again that we carry nothing with us when we leave this world, except the love we have given when we were still alive.

It is unfortunate that some people continue to fill their pockets with lots of cash, and lots of trash as they travel on. What are you carrying in your pocket now? Remember, the heavier the pocket, the heavier the heart, the lighter the pocket, the lighter the heart. Gets *mo*?

* * *

When you think about it, the saddest moments of our lives were the moments when we did not let go because of greed and pleasures. On the other hand, the most gratifying moments of our lives were when we gave and sacrificed. At the end of our lives, may we have no regrets that we hurt, cheated or used people. In the end, the greatest regret is that we did not love enough.

* * *

This is a beautiful time of the year. The fields are ready for harvest. Christmas is just round the corner. Even the weather is milder. Yes, we expect more pleasant times ahead. We hope also for better times ahead for our country and for our people. Let us continue to pray to the Lord of the harvest that we will have more good leaders in our land. Lord, *kung puede lang*, please don't give us more goats to lead us. All they know is to eat and to chew, and will devour everything, including us.

* * *

How does love look like? St. Augustine of Hippo gives us description of love: "It has the hands to help others; it has the feet to hasten to the poor and the needy; it has the eyes to see misery and want; it has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." As we journey on, may people see a clearer picture of what love is because they encountered them. May we all radiate God's love wherever we go, whatever we do.

* * *

Don't miss to read the obituary section in this newspaper. It is an opportunity to pray for and ask the help of those who have gone ahead of us.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, instead of pursuing my elusive dreams of personal wealth and beauty, help me to wake up and live a life of love, now. Amen.

The shadow of military intervention

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ACCORDING to full-page ads taken out by Winston "Churchill" Garcia of the GSIS, the agency "per the financial statements audited by the COA, has had its best financial performance and is at its most stable financial position." All the more reason to wonder why members have been complaining about the suspension or delay in the processing of their salary loans and other benefits. Since it is "at its most stable financial position" there should be enough slack to handle problems about receivables while taking care of the needs of its members.

Last Thursday, Winston called out the troops to express their appreciation for his hands-on leadership and management capabilities. How tacky can one get!

* * *

It's an idea that many of our people would rather not think about primarily because of the experience of more than 10 years of military supremacy under a civilian dictatorship. But the fact remains that if the on-going constitutional crisis is not resolved soon and the impasse between the legislative and judicial branches of government continues, some other institution will have to come forward to break the deadlock one way or another.

A number of observers believe that the President's protestations of support for Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. came a bit too late in the game. Sen. Joker Arroyo saw things as more of a "moromoro," using the term *"consuelo de bobo."* This is understandable, since as head of the ruling Lakas Party in the House of Representatives, President Macapagal could have easily headed off the confrontation by exercising leadership over her party followers in Congress. But apparently she failed or was not really inclined to defend Davide, knowing full well that such a move could imperil her drive for support from the other forces in the political spectrum. Those forces, in her calculation, represent the key to victory in the coming presidential elections.

Actually, a lot of our people are sick and tired of the games being played by our politicians in order to advance their own personal agenda. President Macapagal may be America's fair-haired gal in the region but many Filipinos are bothered about Jose Pidal. When the Arroyo brothers took the stand during the recent Senate hearings, they gave the impression, more than anything else, that they were hiding something. Their body language wasn't reassuring either. On the other hand, their accuser, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, also came up short of expectations in his three exposés delivered as privilege speeches. And of course, the Barbers report on him has not yet been disposed of. As I mentioned in an earlier column, the Senate is an exclusive club with a lot of *esprit de corps* and as Senate chief, Franklin Drilon, once described himself, he is merely a presiding officer of the club.

But all is not lost. We have Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Noli de Castro just beyond the horizon. And there are a lot of politicians waiting to ride on their coattails into the corridors of power.

Forget about the nation, just as long as we're back in the saddle, seems to be their attitude.

* * *

From time to time, I have had the opportunity to talk with a number of mid-level officers belonging to the different services of the AFP. The topics of conversation ranged from the proposed abolition of our alma mater, the Philippine Military Academy, to the level of corruption in the service today. Someone remarked that perhaps because of the Oakwood incident last July, the Academy has attracted the largest volume of applicants in recent years. This year there were 13,323 applicants; 50 percent more than last year. As to the proposed abolition of the PMA, we all thought that Prof. Randy David made an excellent case for the Academy in his column, "The Absurdity of Blaming the PMA."

There was consensus that corruption in the military was tarnishing a generally positive image, but considering the pork barrel abuses of our lawmakers and the unscrupulous behavior of many bureaucrats, particularly in the line agencies, the Armed Forces remain an institution the people can depend on.

This led to a discussion on the role of the military in the face of the brewing constitutional crisis. It was noted that in both Edsa I and II, it was the position of the Armed Forces which tipped the scales in favor of one side and in both cases, power remained in civilian hands with the soldiers primarily in a supporting role. There was practically no bloodshed and little violence.

This may not always be the outcome of future military interventions in the political life of our nation. We should be prepared for more difficult and complex situations especially if our politicians continue to manipulate, for their own advantage, the ignorance and poverty of a broad segment of the electorate. Otherwise, we might as well consign ourselves to being led by movie stars, media personalities and assorted entertainers all dancing to the tune of their political handlers.

As I noted several columns ago, the Harvard scholar Samuel P. Huntington observed that "what draws the soldier into the political arena is not his own strength but rather the weakness of the political system." Whenever there is a vacuum in the system which usually signifies the absence of strong leadership, whether we like it or not, it is the man with a gun who is more likely to step into such a vacuum. The days and months ahead will tell.

Hometown jewels

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PART of my packed schedule during a brief visit to Butuan City was a preview of "Lawig Balanghai," a musical play based on the lives of 16th century Butuanons. Written by Fe Remotigue, "Lawig Balanghai" was first staged in 1987 and toured major cities of Luzon in 1988 as a recipient of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Tour Grant program. It was re-staged in 1994 for "Mindulani," the Mindanao Theater Festival where the musical was hailed as one of Mindanao's landmark stage presentations.

For this third staging, "Lawig Balanghai" will have a series of performances from Nov. 5-7 at the Urios College gym after which it will be brought to Intramuros as part of the Caraga Region's cultural showcase when it takes its turn at the "Best of the Regions" fair from Nov. 22-24.

The musical's organizers said they had done some reworking on the piece, cutting some scenes and introducing new choreography. The musical tells the story of Banog, an adventurous native warrior who is lured by foreign invaders and trades his freedom for slavery, and the impact of his departure on Salunay, his sweetheart, and on Apo Lagka, the tribal chieftain who loses his most able warrior to wanderlust and adventure.

But from what I saw in the few scenes presented that evening, "Lawig Balanghai" also paints a picture of early Butuan culture, portraying a society that was prosperous and dynamic, enjoying a thriving trade with Chinese merchants and successfully fending off the challenges posed by pirate bands.

The musical also pays tribute to the "balanghai," an ancient ocean-crossing vessel crafted from native materials, that was used by early Butuanons to roam the oceans, lending its name not just to a form of transport but also to the community it defines to this day.

* * *

THIS latest version of "Lawig Balanghai" features not just tighter plotting and quicker pacing, but also a brand-new cast of young Butuanon talents.

But the first thing I noticed upon taking my seat were the costumes, which evoked the early tribal wear of rough cloth woven from tree bark and native palms with subtle tie-dyed patterns of leaves and fronds on bleached cotton. Also eye-catching were the headgear fashioned of beads and bangles in gold and in the traditional Manobo colors of red, black, white and yellow.

Then there was the choreography, lively and sharp, with touches of renowned choreographer Agnes Locsin's style, particularly the massing of bodies to evoke geographical features like hills and boulders. And no wonder, "Lawig Balanghai's" choreographer is Cyrill Collado, who proudly admits to being Locsin's student.

The music is a blend of modern rock and ethnic rhythms, performed by a professional band, Sinag with Titing Trinquite as musical director and production design by Omar Arellano. Director is Richard Belar.

Auditions drew over a hundred young artists from Butuan, but in the end a cast of 25 was assembled, with Anthony Greg Naduma as Banog, Christilette Mae Oclarit as Salunay, and Florentino Jalog as Apo Lagka. I couldn't help wondering, as I watched the young cast go through the paces, if some of the performers would not emerge as major national or even international talents someday, fulfilling the promise first tapped by the staging of a play replete with their hometown's history.

Truly, one of the rewards of touring the country is coming upon jewels like the young cast and the artistic talents behind "Lawig Balanghai," toiling in the relative obscurity of their hometowns, and driven only by love for the craft and for their cultural legacy.

* * *

ALSO part of paying tribute to our culture is the present generation's adherence to age-old traditions and customs, such as those all Filipinos indulged in yesterday (and even today) as we observed All Saints' Day.

I detected signs of the feast even as I waited to board the plane for Butuan Thursday, with queues of "chance passengers" patiently waiting and hoping for no-shows on various flights to different cities where they obviously hoped to join their families in the observance of the feast we call *"undas."*

And on the flight back to Manila, I observed a number of my fellow passengers with arms filled with cut flowers, another of Butuan's major exports, doubtless planning to bring these to the graves of their dear departed.

I had briefly debated with myself whether I shouldn't stop by a flower market on our way to the airport, but checked myself, choosing to content myself instead with boxes of sweet lanzones and bags of bananas, reasoning that feeding the living was just as important as appeasing the spirits.

Even so, my family pursued our traditions in our own way, gathering in my home for the eve, snacking on chips and salsa, scaring ourselves with a "Halloween Special" on TV, then trooping at the break of dawn to visit the graves of our parents and nephew. We then went home to a potluck breakfast, reveling in the togetherness brought on by the observance even of somber occasions like All Saints Day.

* * *

FINALLY, while not yet officially a Filipino holiday, Halloween seems to be making a headway in the Filipino psyche, at least among the urban elite and those aspiring to the status.

It was with much amusement that I watched the TV news about families from all over Metro Manila trooping into the elite village of Ayala Alabang not just to ogle the elaborate Halloween décor of the prosperous residents, but also to participate in "trick-or-treating," knocking on doors or gates to pick up loot bags of candies and other treats.

We may not all understand the roots of this secular holiday, but Halloween certainly appeals to the Pinoy penchant for dressing in costumes, moving about in groups, and showing off.

Teaching Davide a lesson

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE OLD man had dared to stand up to the bosses of political gangland. Now he is being taught a lesson by the young heirs of those who have always imagined themselves to be the real lords of this little corner of the world. The "elected" representatives of the people will not brook any display of pride by the "unelected." The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is being put in his place and shown how to defer to real power.

In the culture of gangland, Hilario Davide Jr. is a negative example of the public servant. He does not know how to grovel. He is clear-sighted and uncompromising, and is not fearful about losing his job. Although unelected, he projects not timidity but self-assurance. As presiding officer of the impeachment court that tried President Joseph Estrada, he taught the nation what rule of law meant, contrasting it sharply against the ways of patronage politics. Rising above *utang na loob* that should have bound him to the man who appointed him the highest magistrate of the land, he stuck to the law and ruled with impartiality.

Hilario Davide Jr. has defied the culture of gangland so often he has become a big threat to the bosses who habitually buy and muzzle their way to power. His Court ruled fearlessly on controversial cases that others avoided touching because they involved influential personalities who had kept their power and connections through successive regimes. Many more such cases are pending in his Court.

The complaint against Davide revolves around the utilization of the Judiciary Development Fund, a special fund created by a Marcos presidential decree to augment the incomes of judiciary personnel and to supplement the budget for equipment and facilities of the various courts. The law gives the Chief Justice sole authority to disburse this fund, which is collected from court fees.

The impeachment case alleges several instances of illegal utilization of the fund. The law reserves at least 80 percent of the fund for the allowances of personnel from the various courts of the country. The complaint says the true amount of the fund has not been reported, which is why rank-and-file court personnel have not been getting their full share of the fund. It mentions fund juggling and unauthorized purchases of expensive curtains and furniture. It also questions the disbursement of funds from the JDF to buy cars and to build vacation cottages for the SC justices. The luxury of the high court bought at the expense of the basic needs of ordinary employees—the cause is compelling, but it is baseless.

The case stems from an investigation, in aid of legislation, conducted by Rep. Felix William "Wimpy" Fuentebella for the House Committee on Justice. In May 2003, the committee invited the Chief Justice to shed light on the use of the JDF. Davide declined the invitation citing previous commitments and expressing doubts about the legality of summoning the Court to a congressional inquiry. The auditing of the fund, and indeed of all public expenditures, is a function of the Commission on Audit (COA). And the COA, which is in possession of all the vouchers and papers relating to the fund, has already issued a report finding the JDF collections and expenditures in order.

But Fuentebella was persistent. He summoned the COA officers assigned to the Supreme Court and the SC's Fiscal Management and Budget Office, and asked them to submit reports of JDF remittances, collections, expenditures and vouchers. Chief Justice Davide received a similar request on Sept. 30, prompting him to write to Speaker Jose de Venecia. He told him of his apprehensions over this "direct assault on the independence of the Judiciary," violation of its fiscal autonomy and breach of the doctrine of separation of powers. Davide nevertheless explained to the Speaker the nature, necessity and legal basis of the expenditures that Representative Fuentebella had questioned. He said that the COA has all the records. Because the issue concerned the basic separation of powers, Davide furnished President Macapagal-Arroyo a copy of his letter.

The matter should have been laid to rest at this point if leadership rather than personal agenda had guided the behavior of the Speaker and the President. But neither of the two politicians, both top officials of the ruling Lakas party, lifted a finger to arrest the gathering storm. The pique that Representative Fuentebella felt at being repeatedly rebuffed by the Chief Justice was allowed to smolder, and soon it was fanned by the party of young warlords at the House.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court obliged the warlike stance of the young representatives by unwisely issuing a provocative "status quo order" enjoining both chambers of Congress from doing anything about the case while it hears the petitions on the constitutionality of the complaint. Today the whole House is being mobilized to defend its integrity against a perceived enemy. Even so, we are far from a breakdown of the constitutional order. Whether the impeachment proceeds or not, there is still much leeway for constitutionally acceptable responses at every point.

The real crisis we face today as a nation arises from our growing inability to respect and admire our leaders. This loss of esteem for the country's leaders has led, over the years, to a corrosive indifference toward our institutions and loss of affection for the nation itself. A vicious culture seems to devour everyone who enters public service. The few, like Justice Davide, who remain whole, are seldom spared by media's tendency to believe the worst about our civil servants.

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

Intellectual capital

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HOUSTON, Texas—The University of the Philippines Alumni Association in America (UPAAA) held its 2003 General Assembly and Convention on Oct. 23-26 in Houston with UP president Francisco Nemenzo and Sen. Juan Flavier as guests and keynote speakers. The convention theme was "Balik Lingkod sa UP (Return Service to UP)." It was attended by some 300 delegates and guests nationwide.

In his message, Nemenzo indicated that the "Balik Lingkod" theme sums up the valuable role that the UP alumni abroad can play in strengthening UP as an academic institution. It could be an important vehicle for "inter-generational," even "cross-border " learning that should enrich the intellectual horizons of faculty and students.

"UP has a special role," he added, "to produce the best minds in the country, and improve the chances of low income groups." It is the main generator of "intellectual capital" which every society needs. But this process should start much earlier, and the government should invest more in the public high schools, Nemenzo further noted.

In his report to the alumni, Nemenzo mentioned that the modernization program he has initiated has advanced considerably, from computerization to proposing a revision of the UP charter, which is nearly a hundred years old. He elicited laughter from the audience when he said the charter is so obsolete, it has references to the "American Governor General of the Philippine Islands."

UP alumni overseas have been mobilizing, mainly through e-mail , to have the Senate pass a bill that would amend the UP charter, and endow a "national" status to the premier state university to keep up with major changes since it was established. When the UP charter was developed, there was only one campus—the one on Padre Faura. Today, the UP is a system of seven constituent universities, and the biggest in the country with a total student population of 55,677. In the '70s, Nemenzo recalled, there were only 28,000 overall, with 16,000 in the flagship campus of Diliman.

As far back as the administration of president Jose Abueva in the late '80s, there was already a move to seek a new charter based on the recommendation of the UP Diliman University Council. Again, in the subsequent administration of president Emil Javier, massive consultation activities were conducted, resulting in a bill filed by Rep. Dante Liban and former Rep. Feliciano Belmonte.

Nemenzo's current administration has continued the effort, especially seeking language meant to define more explicitly the concept of a "national university." Nemenzo's proposal will make UP as the country's "national university." This would set it in a category distinct from the more than 110 state universities and colleges. UP faculty are also covered by the Salary Standardization Plan, which inhibits faculty recruitment and retention. Many of the "best and brightest" faculty have left for other well-paying private universities and business establishments.

The basic components of the proposed charter revision in Nemenzo's report are worth repeating, if only to understand more fully why it's necessary to have a new charter.

The first component revolves around UP's "unique and distinctive role in higher education." UP is expected to produce major leaders in the professions and academic disciplines. It's the country's main engine for the generation of intellectual capital, as already mentioned.

Second, the new charter would empower the Board of Regents to draw up a compensation plan for UP faculty and staff . Compared with the Ateneo and De La Salle, UP lags behind. A full professor at UP, who receives only P30,000 a month, give or take, is only equivalent to an assistant professor at the Ateneo and an associate professor at La Salle. Ateneo offers at least P50,000 for a full professor, and La Salle is reported to offer as high as P94,000.

Third, a staff regent would be included in the highest decision-making body at UP, who will represent the full-time, permanent REPS, and administrative personnel. There are faculty and student regents, and the addition of a staff regent should only be fair and equitable to all constituencies at the university.

Fourth, the new charter would codify all executive issuances and statues that recognize "UP's fiscal autonomy." This will be a path-breaking development as UP will automatically get to retain whatever income it makes, which can rationalize and strengthen its allocation processes.

Finally, a revised charter would give the establishment of University Councils on every UP campus a legal basis. The existing charter provides only for one university council since it was created when there was only one campus on Padre Faura.

The House passed Bill 455 related to strengthening the UP back in December 2002. Representatives Nacura, Saludo Jr., Suplico, Abayon and 23 other members of Congress authored the bill.

In the Senate, at least six proposals to revise the charter have been filed. The Senate Committee on Education, headed by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, himself a UP alumnus, is conducting a series of public hearings on these proposals.

It was going around in informal convention circles that Sen. John Osmeña would block the passage of the bill. If this is true, many of the alumni have indicated that they would appeal to Senator Osmeña, who is himself a UP alumnus. When I first joined the faculty of the then UP Institute of Public Administration, the precursor of the current National College of Public Administration and Governance, the senator was taking courses toward the MPA degree. When the institute launched its Local Government Center (LGC), the senator, who was then a Cebu City local official, if I recall correctly, was very helpful and hospitable in getting my team to undertake a "management study" of the Cebu City government. Our Cebu City Report was one of the first outputs of the newly established LGC. It led to some thoughtful discussions about rationalizing some administrative functions and processes in the city.

So, if it is true that Senator Osmeña has serious reservations about the pending bill, we, UP alumni abroad, would like to appeal sincerely to him for his support to move our Alma Mater forward because it has lost a lot of ground and competitiveness. Like our neighbors in Asia, the Philippines should have a "national university" to continue generating much needed intellectual capital for our country by being on the cutting edge of modern learning and international higher education.

University of Hawaii Prof. Belinda A. Aquino was vice president for Public Affairs at the University of the Philippines in 1989-91.

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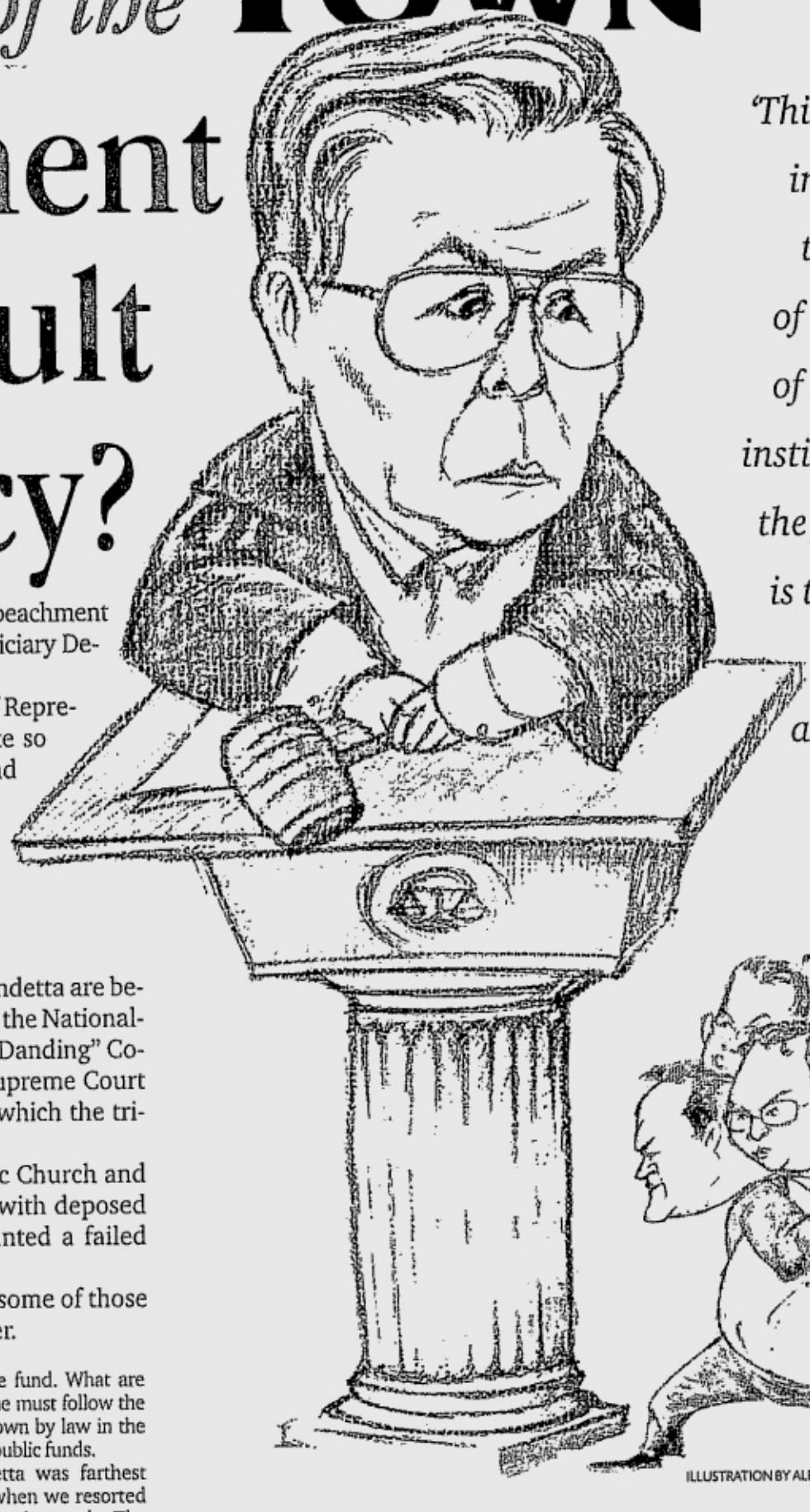
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK *of the* TOWN

Is impeachment of CJ an assault on democracy?



'This unprecedented inquiry may be the beginning of the destruction of our democratic institutions especially the judiciary, which is the last bulwark of democracy and the sentinel of the rule of law'

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE COUNTRY finds itself in a constitutional crisis as a result of the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on charges that he misused the Judiciary Development Fund. Davide denies misusing the JDF.

With the signatures of more than a third of the members of the House of Representatives, the articles of impeachment can be transmitted to the Senate so that the upper house can transform itself into an impeachment court and try the Chief Justice, so claim the proponents of the impeachment.

But groups opposed to the complaint insist that the Chief Justice can no longer be impeached because the complaint was the second to be filed against him this year. The Constitution, they point out, bars the filing of a second impeachment complaint against an impeachable official within a year.

Accusations that the complaint against Davide is nothing but political vendetta are being raised because most of the signatories to the complaint are members of the Nationalist People's Coalition, a political party founded by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco. The businessman may lose control of San Miguel Corp. if the Supreme Court rules that he acquired shares of the company using coconut levy funds, which the tribunal says is imbued with public interest.

The crisis has divided the country into familiar lines, with the Catholic Church and former President Corazon Aquino supporting Davide. Forces identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada, along with the Magdalo Group, which mounted a failed coup on July 27, favor impeachment.

The impasse may invite military intervention, which may just be what some of those supporting the impeachment complaint want to bring them back to power.

No compromise

By the Board of Trustees of the Joaquin "Chino" Roces Foundation

The move to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. may seem too incredible because it is patently baseless and unconstitutional to deserve to be taken seriously. In fact, it is a conspiracy against democracy and must be met decisively, for its every inch of advance is a triumph for incivility, unreason, and gang rule, and naturally a regression from democracy.

Note that:

1. The impeachment has been initiated by members of the House of Representatives whose political and personal affiliations alone betray their ulterior motives;

2. It is undertaken in a house that operates on fraternal indulgence; and

3. It is mounted with an obvious sense of vengeful opportunism—at a time of political uncertainties and amid a self-serving campaign by the House of Representatives to turn itself into a Constituent Assembly, rewrite the Constitution, and consolidate its power in a single-house parliament, eliminating the Senate in the present bicameral Congress.

How can there be any doubt that the impeachment is a coup in itself, especially since it has been recognized as such by likeminded forces, notably the military plotters of July 27 themselves? Imagine a regime established by an alliance of these political and military plotters, and we are all back to 1972.

How can any fair-minded and freedom-loving citizen of this country concede an inch of democratic territory to them? For democracy's sake, there cannot now be any margin for default or compromise.

There is only the rule of law against gang rule, the Supreme Court against the Old Boys' Club of Congress, Davide against his accusers, and us against them.

Vendetta not our motive

By Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro
Proponent of the impeachment complaint against Davide

The impeachment complaint filed by Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William B. Fuentebella and myself is based on finding out the truth behind the use of the Judiciary Development Fund.

The JDF is a multi-billion-peso fund that is administered by the Supreme Court Chief Justice, who has the sole authority to disburse the funds. The JDF is intended principally to provide the approximately 25,000 members and personnel of the judiciary with additional allowances. Under Presidential Decree 1949, 80 percent of the funds shall be used to pay allowances of court personnel while the remaining 20 percent shall be used for the acquisition, maintenance and repairs of office equipment and facilities. At present, more than 70 percent of legal fees paid to the Supreme Court and all other courts form part of the JDF.

Our complaint alleges that the Chief Justice did not follow the guidelines and limitations provided under Presidential Decree 1949 in making disbursements thereunder. We are not saying that he personally benefited from the fund. What are we saying is that he must follow the regulations laid down by law in the disbursements of public funds.

Political vendetta was farthest from our minds when we resorted to the constitutional remedy. The impeachment complaint is a legitimate mechanism enshrined in the Constitution, which the Chief Justice helped draft. It was never used as a tool for leverage. It was only resorted to after the Chief Justice issued a gag order to court employees disallowing them from furnishing the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives with information on the Fund. This gag order came after several attempts on the part of the committee to examine the status of the JDF.

A careful reading of the complaint will show that it is devoid of any colorful language; it definitely does not contain baseless and malicious accusations and macabre imputations. We believe that the complaint, on its face, is dry and factual and it is unfortunate that the reaction of the Chief Justice to this has colored the public's perception.

We know that the Chief Justice is a very popular and powerful figure. He is highly regarded in our society. It is therefore obvious that it makes poor political sense to take him in. Yet we could not disregard the complaints of the lowly workers of the judiciary who could turn to no one else but Representative Fuentebella. He was extra cautious in proceeding with the investigation. The committee gave several chances for the documents regarding the Fund to be presented. Because of the refusal of the Chief Justice to cooperate and the resulting impasse, there was no other alternative but to file the impeachment complaint.

The doctrine of separation of powers, which underlies our system of government, rests upon the system of checks and balances under which one political branch checks on the excesses and abuses of another. The power of impeachment is part of this system. The power to impeach is granted by the Constitution to the House of Representatives, which has the duty to impeach a member of the Supreme Court, or any other impeachable officer, upon his commission of an impeachable act. Each of the acts of Chief Justice Davide described in the complaint constitutes an impeachable offense, for which he must be held responsible. The House of Representatives cannot shirk this duty, and Chief Justice Davide cannot be allowed to hide behind the cloak of judicial independence and fiscal autonomy.

Elite democracy is bankrupt

By Rep. JV Bautista
Sanlakas Party-List

Granted that the move to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. is political vendetta, it cannot however be asserted as an assault on democracy. Such a conclusion presumes there exists a real democracy in the Philippines. But we only have the formalities of democracy without its substance. Where is the sane Filipino who will declare that elections express the will of the people? The masses are free only to choose their oppressors every few years or so.

The unfolding drama around the impeachment of Davide is exposing all the pretenses of elite democracy. On the one hand, politicians whose hands are no cleaner than the man they accuse of corruption have manipulated the impeachment process that is supposed to be a democratic instrument of recall. On the other hand, the personalities who cry "Defend democracy" not only fell silent but cheered on when the Supreme Court legitimized the present dispensation's takeover of power. Meanwhile, the compromise being brokered is designed as a face-saving measure, not as an honest reform of the disbursement of the JDF or of the impeachment process.

The elite are all agitated about an impending constitutional crisis but none care about the economic crisis suffered by the people. For the masses, the tumult is all sound and no fury, for their urgent demands are not being heard.

The complaint of court employees about the proper allocation of JDF funds has been eclipsed by factional infighting of the elite. Thus, I deemed it judicious to withdraw endorsement of the impeachment complaint. While the plea of court employees as the basis of the impeachment remains meritorious, the process has become overwhelmingly political rather than legal.

The intricacies of the impeachment process and the constitutional crisis are lost on the masses for they see only the maneuverings of the warring camps of the elite. While the former interests me as a member of the bar, the latter concerns me more as a representative of Sanlakas. Democracy is dead when the affairs of the state are the profession of the few and not the passion of the people. Such is the bankruptcy of so-called democracy in our country.

Amid the economic crisis wrought by neoliberal globalization and the political crisis engendered by elite infighting, all the pillars of society are being stripped naked of their true nature as ramparts of a rotten system. In Rome, Nero played the fiddle as the city burned. Here, the elite are playing politics as the country is consumed in poverty, injustice and underdevelopment. Now more than ever, the struggle for social change and social justice is a question of national survival.

With the legislature and the judiciary careening toward a constitutional stalemate, the masses cannot remain mere spectators. Any of the elite factions will try to recruit the masses as the cannon fodder. Instead, they must forge the independent movement for social change. As the elite wage war on each other, the workers, the poor and the farmers must wage the fight for jobs, housing and land in order to advance the movement for social transformation.

The House probe is an assault on the independence of the judiciary

By Hilario G. Davide Jr.
Chief Justice

The Chief Justice very respectfully submits that the requirement for the submission of documents or records on the JDF, which had been audited by the Commission on Audit, and the manner the investigation is being conducted bring the inquiry far beyond the intended purpose of the House resolution and create a dangerous precedent in investigations in aid of legislation because of the obvious disregard of the rules relative to such category of investigation. More than that, they constitute a direct assault on the independence of the Judiciary, infringe on the Supreme Court's fiscal autonomy, and cause an irreparable breach of the doctrine of separation of powers.

Let me elaborate on these dangers.

First, the resolution contains no specific statement of the basis of the investigation. There is only a statement that the inquiry is prompted by a "persistent clamor" by some members and personnel of the judiciary for such inquiry. Why there is such a "clamor" and who the parties making the clamor are, are not stated. Such vague and general allegation of the basis of the inquiry cannot justify the holding of an investigation. It is violative of the provisions of Secs. 3-4 of the Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation of the House of Representatives.

Second, the power and purpose of the Committee on Justice to conduct the investigation are not specified in any of the authorizing resolutions (Res. No. 460 and Res. No. 869) of the House. This objection is usually raised when a specific question is asked from a witness, but the Chief Justice sees no reason why the question on the jurisdiction of the Committee cannot be raised at the outset.

Third, the very purpose of the establishment of the JDF, i.e., to give the Judiciary "flexibility allocation and utilization of its resources] to strengthen its independence," would be defeated if, on a vague and general allegation that there is a "persistent clamor," an investigation would be conducted. This would be a violation of the principle of separation of powers implicit in the Constitution and is a threat to the independence of the Judiciary and the guaranty of fiscal autonomy.

What had taken place, or what is taking place in the Committee on Justice in relation to a matter involving the Supreme Court, in particular, and the Judiciary, in general, had never been done before. No less than the third organ of government is subjected to a spectacle unprecedented in the history of our country. For one, the JDF had already been audited by the COA.

No less than the Chief Justice, the COA, and some of the Supreme Court personnel were required to submit records of transactions and even vouchers and other documents related to certain transactions. Moreover, some personnel of the Court and even no less than the Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals were directed to certify under oath the required reports or documents. The certification under oath of these documents is not even required by the law. The obvious purpose of course is to threaten them with perjury if there is any false entry therein. Worse still, it was not the Committee itself through its Chairman, which required the production or submission of the vouchers, papers or documents, but Hon. Fuentebella, the author of Resolution No. 869.

The abovementioned events or occurrences are clearly designed to humiliate or embarrass the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice and put them in discredit and ridicule, thereby putting in clear and present danger the independence of the Judiciary.

To conclude, the inquiry into the Fund, especially with its confirmed purpose of making it a basis for a second impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice, as well as the manner the investigation is being conducted, constitutes (a) a violation of the rules and jurisprudence on investigation in aid of legislation; (b) an open breach of the doctrine of separation of powers; (c) a violation of the fiscal autonomy of the Judiciary; and (d) an assault on the independence of the Judiciary.

This unprecedented inquiry may be the beginning of the destruction of our democratic institutions especially the judiciary, which is the last bulwark of democracy and the sentinel of the rule of law.

(Excerpts from Davide's letter to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. on Sept. 30, 2003)

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Local gov't officials say youth execs joining NPA

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Local officials of Baganga, Caraga, Cateel, and Boston towns claimed that many SK officers in their towns have already joined the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

In Boston town alone, at least 10 SK officials have dropped their positions to join the communist movement.

"It's very alarming. Many of these SK officials have decided to stop their schooling just to join the communist movement," said a town official of Boston town who asked not to be identified.

Abito Bernasor, provincial director of the Department of Interior and Local Government, confirmed that many SK officials in the province have joined the NPA.

During the monthly meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council in the capital town of Mati on Wednesday, the DILG provincial director told Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil that the recruitment of many SK officials in the province to the NPA was "already alarming."

"We should do something to stop the recruitment of these SK officials to the NPA," Bernasor said.

Palma Gil said she was "not surprised" by the report "because many of these SK officials have relatives in the revolutionary movement."

Palma Gil said Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley have become "perfect sanctuary for the NPA because these provinces still have lush forests."

The guerrillas have stepped up their attacks on government targets recently following the declaration by the government of the NPA and the CPP as terror organizations.

Efforts to strike a peace deal with the guerrillas have fallen short. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'VIRING' EFFECTS

Thousands stranded in Lucena

ILAGAN, Isabela—At least 2,000 families in seven towns of Isabela on Saturday were evacuated to higher ground as rivers started to swell in low-lying villages there due to heavy rains brought about by tropical storm "Viring".

Jose Armand Araneta, provincial civil defense officer, said affected families came from 109 villages in the towns of Cabatuan, Ramon San Mateo, Naguilian, Aurora, Gamu and Ilagan.

Strong winds accompanying Viring toppled electric posts and cut off power lines, causing a widespread power outage in Isabela on Friday midnight.

Araneta said water level at the Magat Dam in Ramon town was recorded at 170 meters on Saturday morning, still below the spilling level of 190 meters.

Public storm signal No. 3 was raised over Cagayan Valley on Saturday. Viring is expected to be at the northwest section of Laoag City today.

Viring wreaked havoc on the All Saints' Day trips of thousands in Southern Tagalog.

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"We have to temporary cancel all the ship operations," he said.

Caunan added that all grounded ferries in Marinduque were prevented to sail back to Dalahican.

Despite the strict implementation of the "no ticket-no boarding" policy to assure the safety of sea travelers bound for island provinces who would visit the graves of their loved ones back home, the Coast Guard personnel still found Blue Water Princess, a Marinduque-bound roll-on, roll-off sea vessel, overloaded with passengers.

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Irate, tired and hungry passengers were all over the pier inside the Philippine Fish Port Authority complex.

What added to the woes of some of the passengers was when shipping companies refused to refund the tickets for those who opted not to push through with the trip. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

RESTING PLACE TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

An unidentified grave caretaker takes a respite from his duties just hours before hundreds of people flock to the Baguio Cemetery to visit their dead loved ones.

GMA predicts peace with MILF under her

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed optimism the government would be able to enter into a peace agreement with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) before her term ends next year.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the signing of the final peace agreement would only come if the negotiations could provide a just and lasting solution to the decades-old Bangsamoro problem.

The MILF tends to be vague about what could solve the problem, largely brought about by perceptions of neglect by the central government in Manila, but rebel officials agree that Muslims should be given greater freedom to govern themselves.

Ms Macapagal told reporters during a visit here on Wednesday that it is only a matter of time before a final peace accord with the MILF would be reached.

"I am confident that peace is within grasp. We are closer to peace than in any other time," she said.

The President however declined to speculate on how soon the peace talks could resume saying: "It's not good to give dates."

Ms Macapagal said the mere prospect of a lasting peace in Mindanao has already enticed funds to jump-start the development of the island.

These funds, she said, do not include the $30 million that US President George W. Bush had promised for Mindanao once the final peace agreement is signed. *Dennis Jay C. Santos and Grace C. Albasin with a report from Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Aquino clan owes debt of gratitude to late 'Roding' Ganzon

By Alex P. Vidal

THE LEGACY of the late Sen. Rodolfo Ganzon is best portrayed by the freedoms that we enjoy now for without Ganzon, the slain hero Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino would not have been senator.

The entire Aquino clan owes Roding Ganzon a debt of gratitude for all their luck in politics and show business.

It all started on Dec. 19, 1968, when, after a year of anxiety and suspense, young Ninoy, a Liberal Party member, was allowed by the nine-man Senate Electoral Tribunal to keep his seat by a vote of 5-4.

Ganzon, a member of the Nacionalista Party, crossed party lines and broke a 4-4 dealock to decide a precedent-setting case in favor of the Tarlac legislator.

Those who voted for the retention of Aquino in the Senate aside from Ganzon were his Liberal colleagues—Senators Gerardo Roxas, Ambrosio Padilla, Juan R. Liwag and Justice Conrado V. Sanchez.

Casting anti-Aquino votes were Nacionalista Senators Dominador Aytona, Wenceslao Rancao Lagumbay, Justice Fred Ruiz Castro and J.B.L. Reyes, chair of the tribunal.

Political quarters immediately buzzed with speculations on the true motive of Ganzon for disregarding his party label and casting his lot with Aquino.

There were those who said that Ganzon voted for Aquino to pave the way for his entry into the LP fold in exchange for his inclusion in the opposition Senate slate in 1969.

Ganzon, who has been feuding with then Vice President Fernando Lopez, was reportedly being maneuvered out of the majority Senate ticket for 1969 by Lopez himself.

Lopez had publicly expressed his preference for Iloilo Gov. Rafael "Nono" Palmares to represent Western Visayas in the NP slate.

Majority circles also interpreted Aquino's victory as being "providential" to President Marcos' re-election bid since it will "defuse" the oppression issue which the LP would likely raise against Mr. Marcos.

The Aquino case came when Emilio Espinosa, an NP Senate candidate in 1967, questioned the age qualification of Aquino.

Espinosa said Aquino lacked 13 days to be 35 years of age on election day. But the Liberals said Aquino was more than 35 years old when he was proclaimed senator.

Ganzon, known as "The Stormy Petrel of the South", died Oct. 29, 2003. He was 81.

(Note: The author is an Iloilo-based publisher)

Traditional burial practices persist in villages of Sagada

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAGADA, Mt. Province—When American Anglican missionary Rev. John Staunton visited this town in 1904, he was moved by how the villagers bury their dead in the dank, deep cave of Lumiang, villagers here say.

A villager says Staunton did not go around criticizing the locals' way of burying their dead. Before Staunton came, visitors had complained about the traditional piling of wooden coffins in the cave.

The late Staunton instead blessed the burial cave because he believed that Jesus Christ was once buried inside a cave.

Despite the effects of modern living and Christianity, some residents in this tourist town cling to the traditional practice of entombing their dead in caves and fastening their coffins in cliffs. Sagada is about 150 km north of Baguio City.

Anthropological records showed the practice started to diminish when American missionaries introduced Christianity in the early 1900s, but there are villagers who cling to it.

"Of course there are elders who prefer the traditional burial, there are five out of 20 people who would want it. We cannot deny that this is our cultural heritage," Mayor Thomas Killip said.

Jaime Dugao, barangay captain of Ankileng, said he has identified two burial caves in his village for him and his wife. Their burial caves overlook his farm in Sitio Maduto.

"Although Christianity has been practiced in this town, you cannot change the belief of villagers who have grown up seeing these hanging coffins in the burial caves. They see that the practice still exists. No one can rob them of their culture," Dugao said.

Villagers said the practice of hanging or fastening coffins in cave walls has existed for more than 500 years in the burial caves of Lumiang, Matangkib, Paytokan, Namong-a, Nasakkangan and Igui.

Other coffins are hung in limestone cliffs because some families believe that the spirits of their loved ones will be brought closer to God.

During the traditional wake, the body is propped on a *sangadil* (death chair) in a sitting position. A hand woven white cloth with streaks of black is wrapped around the body. Herbs are also rubbed on the body to preserve it during the wake.

Sagada elders said close relatives are required to carry the body on the day of the burial. Belief considers it good luck when blood from the corpse stains someone who was carrying it.

At the grave site, the body was placed in hollowed pine logs and hung on walls or piled on top of other coffins.

Villagers here believe that if they die, they go back to the pre-birth stage that is why the dead should be interred in a fetal position.

Dugao said one could determine if the corpse was blessed in Christian or traditional rites through the size of the coffin.

"If you go to the grave site, you could see that there are longer coffins. This only shows that there are some Christians who choose the traditional ways of burial," he said.

Residents also observe All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day by practicing the *pinag-aapoy* or *pinagdedenet*. The practice involves creating bonfires in graveyards using *saleng* (pinewood),

A LONE museum curator dusts a glass coffin containing a Benguet mummy. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Ping asks youth to fight graft

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson challenged the youth to become watchdogs of corruption in government.

In a speech before members of the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation in Iloilo City, Lacson said since the youth constitute more than 70 percent of the country's population, they should "have more direct participation in governance."

"The best thing the youth can do is to act as watchdogs against corruption because it is the widespread and massive corruption in government that is killing us as a country and as a people," Lacson said in a statement.

He told members of the SK that the youth's desire to take a direct part in governance is a step in the "right direction".

He said war on corruption should be the battlecry of the youth because the country was now No. 11 from No. 85 in the list of most corrupt countries in the world. The Philippines, he said, ranks fourth most corrupt country in Asia.

"At the start of the Arroyo administration we rose to 75 and between 2001 to 2003, we are now No. 11," he said.

"It is not a complement for a country to be placed up in that ladder," he said.

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RESTING PLACE
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By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAGADA, Mt. Province—When American Anglican missionary Rev. John Staunton visited this town in 1904, he was moved by how the villagers bury their dead in the dank, deep cave of Lumiang, villagers here say.

A villager says Staunton did not go around criticizing the locals' way of burying their dead. Before Staunton came, visitors had complained about the traditional piling of wooden coffins in the cave.

The late Staunton instead blessed the burial cave because he believed that Jesus Christ was once buried inside a cave.

Despite the effects of modern living and Christianity, some residents in this tourist town cling to the traditional practice of entombing their dead in caves and fastening their coffins in cliffs. Sagada is about 150 km north of Baguio City.

Anthropological records showed the practice started to diminish when American missionaries introduced Christianity in the early 1900s, but there are villagers who cling to it.

"Of course there are elders who prefer the traditional burial, there are five out of 20 people who would want it. We cannot deny that this is our cultural heritage," Mayor Thomas Killip said.

Jaime Dugao, barangay captain of Ankileng, said he has identified two burial caves in his village for him and his wife. Their burial caves overlook his farm in Sitio Maduto.

"Although Christianity has been practiced in this town, you cannot change the belief of villagers who have grown up seeing these hanging coffins in the burial caves. They see that the practice still exists. No one can rob them of their culture," Dugao said.

Villagers said the practice of hanging or fastening coffins in cave walls has existed for more than 500 years in the burial caves of Lumiang, Matangkib, Paytokan, Namong-a, Nasakkangan and Igui.

Other coffins are hung in limestone cliffs because some families believe that the spirits of their loved ones will be brought closer to God.

During the traditional wake, the body is propped on a *sangadil* (death chair) in a sitting position. A hand woven white cloth with streaks of black is wrapped around the body. Herbs are also rubbed on the body to preserve it during the wake.

Sagada elders said close relatives are required to carry the body on the day of the burial. Belief considers it good luck when blood from the corpse stains someone who was carrying it.

At the grave site, the body was placed in hollowed pine logs and hung on walls or piled on top of other coffins.

Villagers here believe that if they die, they go back to the pre-birth stage that is why the dead should be interred in a fetal position.

Dugao said one could determine if the corpse was blessed in Christian or traditional rites through the size of the coffin.

"If you go to the grave site, you could see that there are longer coffins. This only shows that there are some Christians who choose the traditional ways of burial," he said.

Residents also observe All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day by practicing the *pinag-aapoy* or *pinagdedenet*. The practice involves creating bonfires in graveyards using *saleng* (pinewood).

A LONE museum curator dusts a glass coffin containing a Benguet mummy.
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Ping asks youth to fight graft

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson challenged the youth to become watchdogs of corruption in government.

In a speech before members of the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation in Iloilo City, Lacson said since the youth constitute more than 70 percent of the country's population, they should "have more direct participation in governance."

"The best thing the youth can do is to act as watchdogs against corruption because it is the widespread and massive corruption in government that is killing us as a country and as a people," Lacson said in a statement.

He told members of the SK that the youth's desire to take a direct part in governance is a step in the "right direction".

He said war on corruption should be the battlecry of the youth because the country was now No. 11 from No. 85 in the list of most corrupt countries in the world. The Philippines, he said, ranks fourth most corrupt country in Asia.

"At the start of the Arroyo administration we rose to 75 and between 2001 to 2003, we are now No. 11," he said.

"It is not a complement for a country to be placed up in that ladder," he said.

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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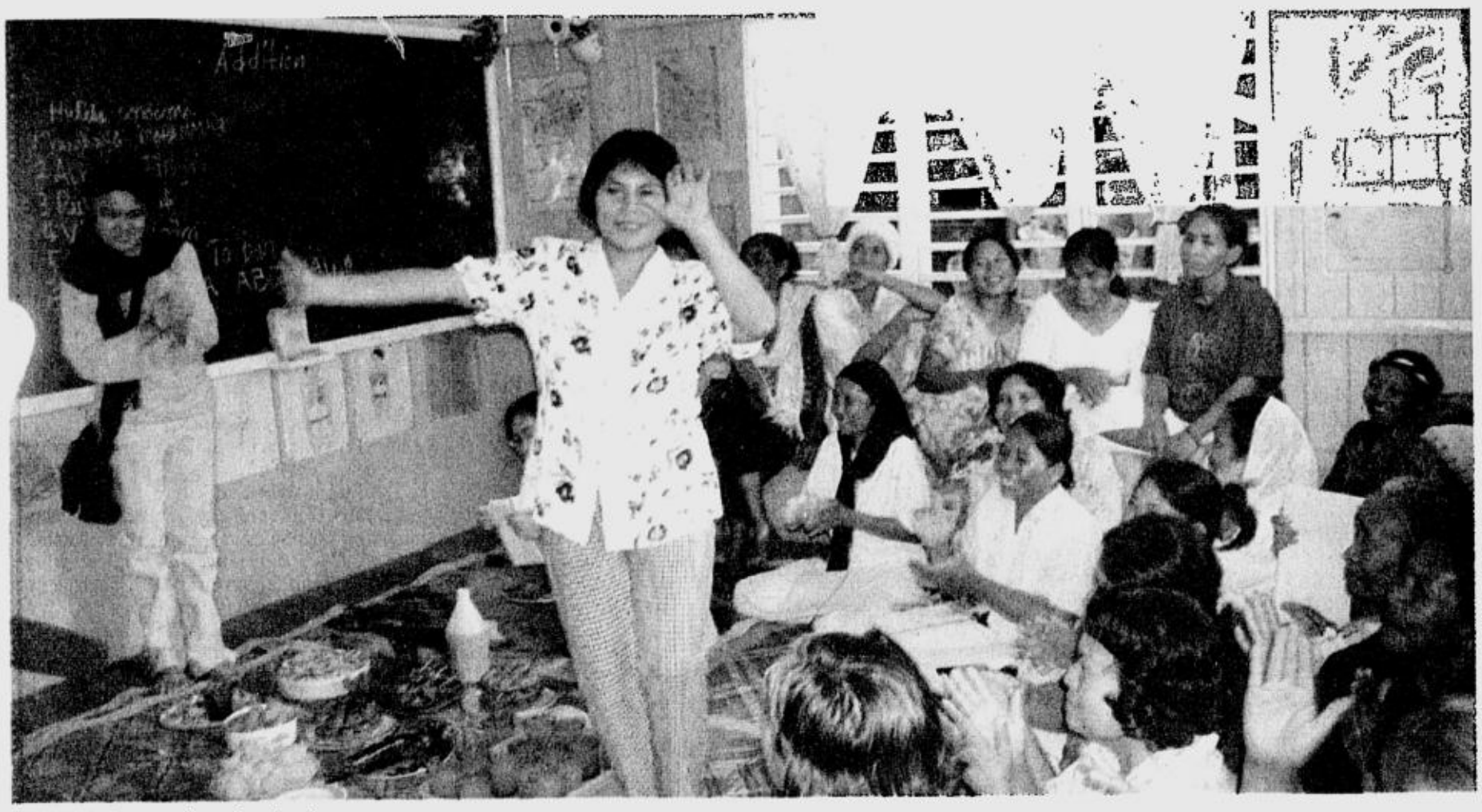


HELPING the poor through education.

Big business gets involved in Muslim Mindanao's poor

By Samira Ali Gutoc
Contributor

THE MINDANAO problem is a Philippine problem, says an Iligan peace advocate at a grouping during the celebration of the International Day of Peace last month.

It appears that everybody has come to realize that it is true.

Today, peace building seems to have seeped into the corporate consciousness as well. Lobbying for business sector involvement in the "poor plight" of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Western Mindanao is the Manila-based Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

Since 1989, the corporate-led social development foundation has generated more than P800 million from its more than 40 partners to address poverty in the island, in what is being called the Mindanao Catch-up-Plan.

The program aims to provide basic services in education, health, employment and entrepreneurship for marginalized communities.

The statistics in the said fields were alarming.

In the whole of Mindanao, only 3 of 10 students can actually graduate from secondary level, posting the highest dropout and survival rate in the country.

In the ARMM, only one of 10 Grade 1 enrollees finishes high school.

The infant mortality rate and unemployment in the ARMM region is also one of the highest.

"In the latest human development index report, the poverty incidence in Muslim areas has doubled to 72 percent," said Suharto Ambolodto of the Cotabato-City based Institute of Strategic Studies.

While the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were undertaking peace talks, another peace drive is uplifting the lives of the country's poorest of the poor.

Once a conflict zone, Basilan is on the development trail, being a recipient of corporate funding for its schools and literacy classes.

PBSP donated a science laboratory and school supplies to the Lamitan Central Elementary School (LCES), which hosts more than 2,000 children.

"This is one way of fighting poverty," said Councilor Badiria Aman, president of the school's Parents Teachers Association (PTA) during the Sept. 5 launch of textbook donations for Basilan's children.

Lamitan was the infamous site where the Abu Sayyaf kidnapped more than 20 schoolchildren and teachers in 2001.

"Parents have the same vision. It is the success of their children. I want Lamitan to progress," said Aman.

While schoolchildren are learning the skills of reading and writing, Badjao adults, mostly women, ages 25 and above from the nearby Malawani Island were learning the basics of ABC and arithmetic.

Housed in a water village supported by stilts in corporate-funded literacy classes, Badjao women learn to sign their name in their own handwriting and "no longer in thumb mark."

Ruaina Dahih, 25, who has 7 kids, said she was "happy" after learning to write.

With their newfound confidence, some of the "graduates" have organized a group called Las Viudas.

Wives of former Abu Sayyaf members acquired loans from PBSP-friendly banks to set up a livelihood such as making cards using native paper.

Malnourished children are also commonplace in Basilan, which prompted PBSP to establish feeding centers in the LCES.

The feeding centers were aimed at supporting the nutritional needs of around 60 schoolchildren, with ages 6-7 years old.

The full meals in between breakfast and lunch outside the schoolrooms provide the kids with a means to address their being "underweight."

While the peace and order problem in the island remains, the PBSP is optimistic that it could address the neglected development aspect of the peace process.

"We can only address a pint in the bucket but that's enough for us," said Ruth Honculada, program manager of the PBSP.

Former Moro rebels fight for productivity in farming

By Edwin O. Fernandez
Pikit, North Cotabato

FORMER Moro rebels, who have rejoined the mainstream society, were asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to work for the realization of their long desired livelihood by allowing the second stage of a flagship project here to take place.

"There can be no substitute for us earning a living on our own," said Ali Kamaludin, one of the former Moro fighters who opted to return to the fold of the law because of a promised development in his farmland.

"We do not rely on dole outs, *gusto naming paghirapan ang aming kinakain* (we want to work for our food) but how could we do it if our lands remain dry," he told the INQUIRER during a gathering of Muslim farmers. Their production depends on how soon phase 2 of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project could be implemented.

Lack of funds hinders the next phase of the project, which aims to irrigate some 5,000 hectares of land here.

Engineer Noldin Oyod, Malmar project manager, said the first phase of the project, including the bridge and a siphon that would bring water to several villages of Pikit, had already been completed.

"We have completed the project as scheduled but the water could not be siphoned to other dry lands due to lack of funds," he told the INQUIRER.

Oyod said the people have been asking Malmar officials when the next phase would come but they could not provide a specific answer.

"That is why we are asking for presidential intervention," Kagi Sabang, a former Moro commander, who shifted to farming to earn a decent income, said.

Urging his former followers to persevere and continue hoping, Sabang said he is convinced the government's peace and development program for Mindanao, in Pikit in particular, would be sustained by the Macapagal administration.

The farmers' hope had been boosted by the recent visit of Director Jose Montes of the Department of Agriculture's project development services.

"We are looking for funding of this major project to ensure that peace and development reigns in this part of Mindanao," Montes told the farmers during an inspection tour of the bridge and siphon projects.

This assurance gave hope to rice farmers in conflict-affected communities in Pikit, who have been asking the government for assistance.

"With the GRP-MILF peace process getting headway, we are preparing ourselves to become productive rice producers, a dream we have been wishing for so long," said Kamaludin.

Montes led a team of DA officials and National Economic and Development Authority representatives in an inspection of the newly completed bridge and siphon project that would connect the irrigation project from Pagagawan, Maguindanao to Pikit, North Cotabato.

The P150-million siphon and bridge project would transfer the needed water to villages in Pikit.

It would benefit some 5,800 farmers.

"Japan and the United States are willing to help fund phase 2 and we are working on it," Montes added.

"Once the other stage of the project is completed, the government could say it has accomplished its mission of transforming people's lives from their being counter-productive to peace and development stakeholders," Oyod said.

Macapagal Sultan, a former Moro guerrilla, told Montes that the irrigation dam has changed their lives from fighters to farmers.

"Before when we were still fighting the government, we only thought of what to eat for the day," he recalled.

"Now, we think not only for ourselves but for the education of our children, their future and the future of our community, which is now a peace zone," he added.

Sabang, a seasonal farmer living near the siphon project, said his co-farmers have already benefited from the project though it is yet to provide them water.

"While we have yet to engage in full farming as promised by this project, we have earned a living as laborers and construction workers," he said.

With sparkle in his eyes, Sabang said he and his farmer-family would like to experience planting rice two or three times a year.

"As a native farmer, I have yet to experience harvesting twice a year. Insha Allah (By God's will), we would see ourselves equally productive as our Christian brothers in well-irrigated farms in North Cotabato," he added.

'Txt-d-Governor' brings people closer to RP's most outstanding governor

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Oroquieta City

IN THE predominantly agricultural province of Misamis Occidental, mobile communications technology is bringing the governed closer to their government.

Several localities in the province are still beset by non-coverage of telecoms service, but text messaging has become a tool for citizen participation in governance, thanks to the efforts of no less than the province's top executive.

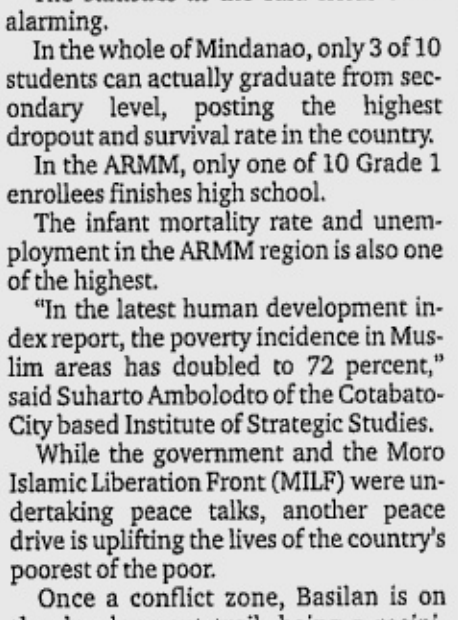
Through a text line, Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos, judged the most outstanding governor of the 2003 Local Government Leadership Awards, solicits feedback from citizens on just about any subject relating to the operation and performance of the government.

Implemented beginning last year, this feedback mechanism dubbed "Txt-d-Governor" takes advantage of the cost-efficient short messaging service capability of mobile communications.

At only a peso or two per message sent, this low-cost option for a means of communication with the top provincial leader is expected to gain currency as a major feedback channel.

Ocampos had emphasized that using modern technology in the conduct of governance is a necessity to attune government's functioning to the realities of the technological age.

Since assuming power, the first-termer provincial chief executive has championed the use of information and



GOV. Ocampos

communications technology in the operation of the provincial government to enhance its service delivery functions.

Messages sent through the Short Messaging Service (SMS) feedback scheme are comments about the way programs and projects are being implemented and suggestions on how to improve them, critique on the direction of local governance, community problems that the people wanted acted upon and "just about anything they would like to tell the governor."

Received messages are evaluated as to what particular actions are desired and from what level the actions will emanate or have to be undertaken. These are then routed to departments in the provincial bureaucracy that has the capability and mandate to act on them.

If the matters brought up require the provincial chief executive's attention, these are sent to the governor's desk for consideration.

The scheme, therefore, provides an effective means for the voices of ordinary folk to reverberate in the provincial government's corridors of power.

Parallel feedback

Ocampos, however, has no illusions of the "texting scheme" replacing citizen involvement through the formal bodies designed for governance participation.

But he valued its information inflow as these give him leads to problem situations and a direct feel of the impact of government activities on people's lives, parallel to what the official structures have to say.

By having a first-hand crack at the pulse of the people on a real-time basis, he said the provincial leadership has a good grasp of issues and concerns the people want government to respond to, and how.

The government traditionally receives feedback from the citizens through letter-appeals, open letters in the mass media, and directly through community interfaces. The first two are rather formal and intellectual, and usually employed in organized advocacies; while the third, although fast and spontaneous, rarely happens.

In addition, reaching out for people's feedback through the usual levels of governance structures does not come easy for the provincial government. The quality of public opinion it can get is determined by how enabling the component local governments are in gathering the people's views.

The Txt-d-Governor scheme cures some deficiencies in the traditional feedback processes: the message is delivered straight and direct, and limited only in form imposed by the features of a mobile phone unit.

While the context of problem situations is difficult to transmit in this channel, an investigation process in connection with a mulled response does the task.

It therefore breaks new ground here in using modern technology to improve the mode of governing about half-a-million constituents in 17 localities spread across a territory of some 200,000 hectares.

But more significantly, it is a bold display of a leader's openness to criticism and being held constantly accountable.

However, the greatest challenge facing the scheme is the lack of coverage of mobile communication service in several of the province's towns.

Set against this current governance context, the expansion of telecoms' coverage in these localities is not only a matter of social service but also a matter of opportunity for political participation.

Remote governance

Apart from obtaining feedback, Ocampos also makes use of mobile communication technology as a platform for running the affairs of the provincial government "on a remote control basis" when he is not around the office.

"When I'm out of town, I usually receive feedback, send instructions and direct actions through my cellular phone," he said.

He added: "The quality of the Capitol bureaucracy now allows me to conduct management by texting."

This is a big help for the neophyte governor, who is occasionally out of town on "promotional trips" aimed at soliciting funds for the provincial government's expanding development financing needs.

STOP THE SPIRAL OF AGRARIAN VIOLENCE IN NEGROS!

IMPLEMENT SOCIAL JUSTICE TO SUGARWORKERS AND LANDLESS POOR!
IMPLEMENT GENUINE AGRARIAN REFORM NOW!

The Economy of Negros continues to stagnate and the Negrenses remain badly divided due to the efforts of a few landed interests to delay and circumvent the 15-year old agrarian reform program. This circumvention is found in the documented land conversion cases and dubious agrarian reform schemes such as stock distribution option (SDO), corporative/joint venture, leaseback and others.

These delays and circumventions prevent new investments of the land and drive many agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to despair and restlessness, especially the qualified beneficiaries who have been disenfranchised by the shady legal maneuverings and fraudulent acts of anti-reform landlords and a handful conniving bureaucrats.

Worse, a number of ARBs have fallen victims to the goons of unreformed landlords. The latest case involves Hacienda Esperanza in Barangay Nagasi, La Carlota City where armed mercenaries hired by the landowner, Kitchie Benedicto, forcibly barred the ARBs from attending to their farm lots, resulting in the death of Dlony Gaylan and the wounding of several ARBs, including some women on March 6, 2003. And yet, Gaylan and other ARBs have all the right to till their farmlots for they were holders of their Certificates of Land
Ownership Awards (CLOAs).

Sadly, Negros is once again being sucked by a spiral of violence, which can only exacerbate the unending cycle of backwardness, poverty and social division in this hapless island. This spiral of violence and this cycle of poverty can and ought to be broken by a decisiveness on the part of the National Government, the Department of Agrarian Reform Regional Office and the concerned local government units.

We dare President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to:

Distribute the remaining 130,000 hectares of private agricultural lands in Negros to qualified beneficiaries within the next five years;

Revoke the dubious non-land transfer schemes (NLTS) and their immediate distribution to qualified beneficiaries starting with the haciendas placed under corporative scheme by Danding Cojuangco;

Provide meaningful, adequate and timely government support services to ARBs in order for them to attain a higher level of productivity and human dignity; and

Serve justice to Diony Gaylan and to all other victims of agrarian violence.

NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, FARMER'S ORGANIZATION AND FEDERATION

Signed:

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL :

Genuine Agrarian Reform Advocates for Negros Development- GARAND
Center for People's Agricultural Plan for the 21st Century Incorporated- PAP 21
Negros Center for People's Empowerment and Rural Development Inc.- NCPERD
Paghilusa Development Group Inc.- PDG
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement - PRRM- Negros Chapter
Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation - AID Foundation
Paghilusa sa Paghidaet sa Negros Inc-.PSPN
Peace Advocates of Negros - PAN
Social Action Center -Diocese of Bacolod
Social Action Center-Diocese of Kabankalan
Social Action Center- Diocese of San Carlos
Family Food Incorporated - FFI
BUILDERS Inc.
Broad Agrarian Reform Alliance - BARA-Negros
Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Initiatives for Negros Empowerment - CARBINE
Negros Occidental Federation of Farmers Association - NOFFA
Ugyunan sang Mangunguma kag Mamumugon sa Negros - UMMA-Negros
Negros Organic Farmers Federation for Sustainable Development - NOFFSD
Bago City Farmers's Federation - BCFC
La Carlota City Farmer's Federation- LCCFF
Northern Negros Farmers and Farmworkers Federation - NNFFA
AKBAYAN- Negros Chapter
Nagasi Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries -Multi Purpose Cooperative Inc.- NARB-MPCI
Asosasyon sang Benepisyaryo sang Repormang Agraryo sa Magallon- San Isidro Labrador-ABRAMSIL
Hacienda D-64 Farmworkers Association -HAFWA
Hacienda California Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association - HCARBA
Hacienda Pahu Farmworkers Association - HAFWA
Los Angeles Workers Association - LAWA
San Julian Farmworkers Association - SJFAWA
Mercedes Farmers Association - MERFA
Balangon Growers Association -BGA
Center for Migrant Advocacy - CMA
Samahan ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Lupain ng Cojuangco - SMB
Center for Agragrian Reform Empowerment and Transformation - CARET

NATIONAL NGO'S, FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS AND FEDERATION

Philippine Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services - PARRDS- Quezon City
Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Empowerment Foundation Inc -
PEACE Foundation - Quezon City
Visayas Management Consultancy Inc. -VIMCON Inc. - Cebu City
Kahugpungan sa Mangingisda ug Maguuma sa Kabanikanhan sa Toledo -KASAMMAKA- Toledo. Cebu
Coco-Agri-Aqua Farmers Development Center Inc.- CAAF- Davao Oriental
Palawan Center for Appropriate Rural Technology Inc. - PCART, Palawan
PRO-TEAM Foundation Inc.- Davao City-
Negros Oriental Institute for Rural Development Inc.- NIRD- Canlaon City
Kadtuntaya Foundation Inc.- Cotabato City
Coconut Industry Reform Movement - COIR - Quezon City
Foundation for Agrarian Reform Cooperative in Mindanao- FARM COOP
Institute for the Development of Educational and Ecological Alternative Inc -IDEAS, Palawan
Consulting Team Inc- CTI , Quezon City

INTERNATIONAL:

NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION , COOPERATIVE UNION and FARMER'S ORGANIZATION.

1) Japan Committee for Negros Campaign -JCNC
2) Alter Trade Japan
3) Asian Farmers Exchange Center
4) All -Japan Federation of Farmer's Union
5) Consumer's Cooperative Union -KIRARI
6) A Cooperative -Osaka
7) Niigata-Sougou Consumers Cooperative
8) Green Coop Consumers Cooperative Union
9) Kyoto El -Coop Consumers Cooperative Union
10) Okitama Farmer's League
11) Okitama Women's Network
12) Radish Boya Co.Ltd.
13) Seikatsu Club Consumers Cooperative
14) Sendaikyodokonyukai Consumers Cooperative Union
15) Senriyama Consumers Cooperative
16) Shutoken Coop. Consumers Cooperative Union
17) Daichi-o-Mamoru-Kai

Individuals :

1) Ms Yoshie HORI - Lecturer, Keisein University
2) Mr Yoshinori KANEKO - Organic farmer
3) Mr Bamrung KAYOTHA- Adviser, Forum of the Poor and Alternative Agriculture Network- Thailand
4) Mr Douglas LUMMIS - Political Scientist
5) Rev Munetoshi MAEJIMA - Co-convenor JCNC and Professor, Kwansei Gakuin University
6) Prof. Hisashi Nakamura - Professor, Shikoku Gakuin University
7) Ms Suntarry SAENG-GING - Chairman, NGOCOD- Northeast Thailand
8) Prof. Masaaki SATAKE - Professor, Ryukoku University
9) Peter Cardinal SHIRAYANAGI - Co - convenor , JCNC
10) Ms Reiko SUZUKI - Moderator , National Christian Council in Japan
11) Ms Suzuyo TAKAZATO - Co- chairperson Okinawan Women's Act Against Military Violence
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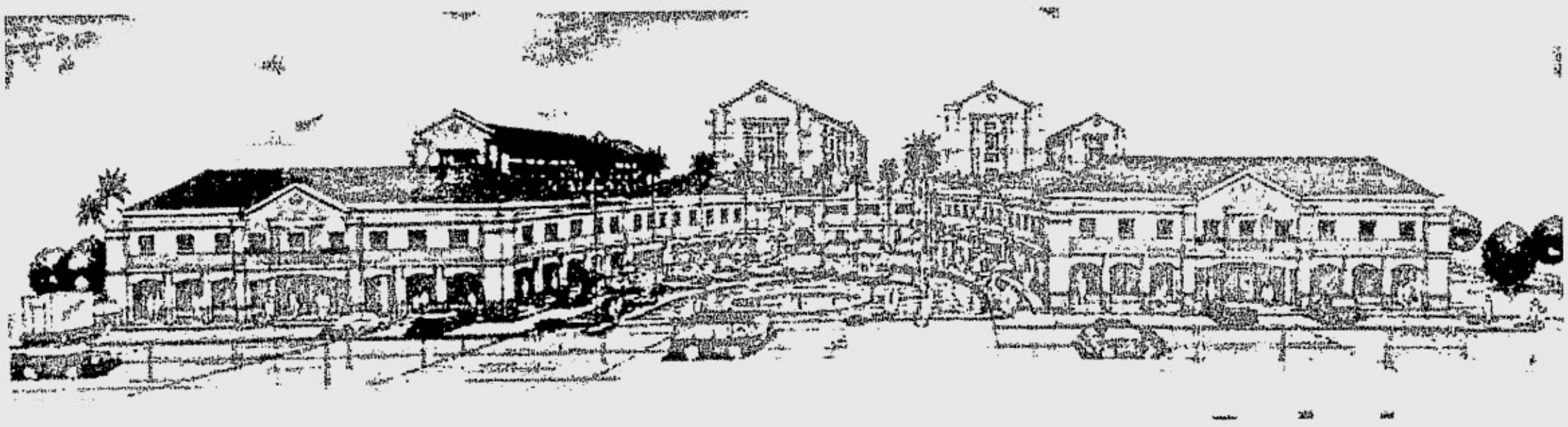

(This Artist's Perspective is intended to give a general idea of the project and as such is not to be relied upon as a statement of fact.)

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METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

6/42 Luzon
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Vis-Min
6 9 14 17 18 39

For 2 hours, Metro gropes in darkness

A POWER outage in Metro Manila yesterday morning sparked fears of a rebellion as hundreds of thousands of people marked All Saints' Day by holding vigils at the graves of their dear departed.

Parts of the metropolis of close to 12 million people lost electricity at around 2 a.m., although power was restored to most areas by 4 a.m.

Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye yesterday allayed fears that forces out to destabilize government had anything to do with the outage.

"The situation is under control," Bunye said in an interview on local radio, adding that the police and army were on standby and ready for any trouble.

Nevertheless, the blackout sparked tension among residents, fueled by rumors of a rebellion in the offing.

A Manila Electric Co. official yesterday said tripping at power plants caused the brief outage.

In July this year, a group of disgruntled military officers staged a short-lived mutiny.

On Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered all field officers to account for the staff under their commands and warned that she had "the will, the authority and the resources to quell any disorder or attempts at destabilization."

"We shall not hesitate to move decisively against those who will exploit this interbranch impasse to foment violence," the President added.

Armed Forces chief of staff General Narciso Abaya said the military remained loyal to the the government and the headcount check did not mean another coup d'etat attempt was brewing. *Reuters*

Kids with cancer get a home

By Margaux Ortiz

CHILDREN from the provinces suffering from cancer do not have to travel back and forth to Metro Manila's hospitals to undergo treatment.

An old dilapidated building which, incidentally, was a children's hospital during the American period, has been turned into a halfway house for children with cancer.

The project, a brainchild of beauty expert and philanthropist Ricky Reyes, and the President's daughter, Luli Arroyo, was completed with the help of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

According to Reyes, the Center for Health Improvement and Life Development, or Child House, is expected to be filled with kids from far-flung provinces before Nov. 15.

Such a place exists

"We have yet to accept children with cancer in the weeks to come," Reyes said during the inauguration of Child House last Tuesday at the Quezon Institute on E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.

"Right now, we are announcing that such a place exists for poor kids who have to travel back and forth to the city just to undergo treatment," Reyes said.

The beauty expert said that since he and Luli have started helping cancer-stricken kids at the Philippine General Hospital Cancer Institute, they always noticed that parents and children awaiting treatment sleep in the corridors.

They later learned that the families were from the provinces and could not afford to travel to Manila on a regular basis.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo spends some time with children stricken with cancer at the Center for Health Improvement and Life Development at the PCSO complex in Quezon City. With her are MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando, PCSO head, Honey Girl de Leon, and philanthropist Ricky Reyes.

"We realized that hundreds of children die in the provinces because they could not afford the expensive treatment in Manila," Reyes said.

He added that aside from the money the poor families have to shell out for medicine, they also have to consider food and lodging.

"This is where Child House comes in," Reyes said.

He said that the PCSO agreed to donate an old building near the Quezon Institute for the new project, while the MMDA pledged to renovate it.

Dream project

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said he did not think twice when Reyes and Luli asked him months ago to help them realize their dream project.

"Aside from building roads and taking care of Metro Manila's trash, we also have a mandate to look after the health of the people," Fernando said.

He added that the P2.5 million the MMDA spent in renovating the building came from their health budget.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said that MMDA personnel began to work on the 1,800-square meter property a month ago.

Now, the cream-colored building with quaint wooden windows is 95 percent finished, Nacianceno said.

Livelihood lessons

Luli, chairperson of Child, said children with cancer who have to undergo treatment for a certain period of time will be given priority at Child House.

She said that aside from providing shelter to the kids, the accompanying parents will also be given livelihood lessons, courtesy of the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center.

Reyes, whose foundation will take care of Child House's daily operations, said there will be enough room for 120 children, with one companion allowed for each child.

He said that the only basic need the foundation could not provide is food.

But Reyes assured future transients that there will be a pantry and dining hall where families may prepare and eat their food. He said there would even be nutritionists to look after the patients' diets.

Reyes said they would get by with the help of volunteers, most of whom are cancer survivors themselves, and the annual P1 million the PCSO has pledged to the center.

"With Child House, (every parent and child) will never feel that they are that far away from home again," Reyes said.

Peaceful, orderly mayhem marks All Saints' in Metro Manila

By Leila Salaverria, Margaux Ortiz, Tina Santos, Luige del Puerto and TJ Burgonio

VISITORS to cemeteries in Metro Manila yesterday enjoyed a generally peaceful holiday, as security measures implemented by the police and local governments seemed to have paid off.

Police Director Ricardo de Leon, acting chief of the Directorial Staff of the Philippine National Police, yesterday said that they have not monitored any violent incidents perpetrated by lawless elements.

"We don't have any unusual incident nationwide, but we have recovered some bladed weapons and bottles of liquor," he told reporters, citing reports from around Metro Manila and the rest of the country. "So far it's generally peaceful."

Good job

De Leon stressed that the national police would not stand down from its heightened alert status until Monday.

"People have converged at the cemeteries today, so we expect the crowd to grow tonight and tomorrow," De Leon said yesterday.

As of yesterday afternoon, no untoward incident had been reported in Manila's four cemeteries.

The peaceful situation was even noticed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, who went to the North Cemetery at around 2 p.m. yesterday to visit the graves of her in-laws.

"Things seem to be in order," Ms Macapagal said in Filipino, referring to the situation in the cemetery. She added that the roads were not as congested as in the years past.

Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong also said his men have done a good job in securing Manila's cemeteries.

By 4 p.m. yesterday, the crowd at the North Cemetery—the largest in Metro Manila—had swelled to 100,000.

Gang violence

At 3:50 a.m., gang violence erupted at the North Cemetery, where two youths were stabbed.

Christopher Jacob was stabbed in the back while Daniel de Vera was hit in the shoulder by members of a rival gang. Both were taken to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, police said.

Nine persons were also arrested for holding a pot session inside the North Cemetery.

And despite rules against bringing in liquor, 18 drunk persons were also collared yesterday. They were taken to a holding area and released after they sobered up.

The command post of the WPD yesterday received a report that a man was arrested at the South Cemetery for allegedly defecating on top of one of the graves.

Two mobile phone snatchers were also arrested.

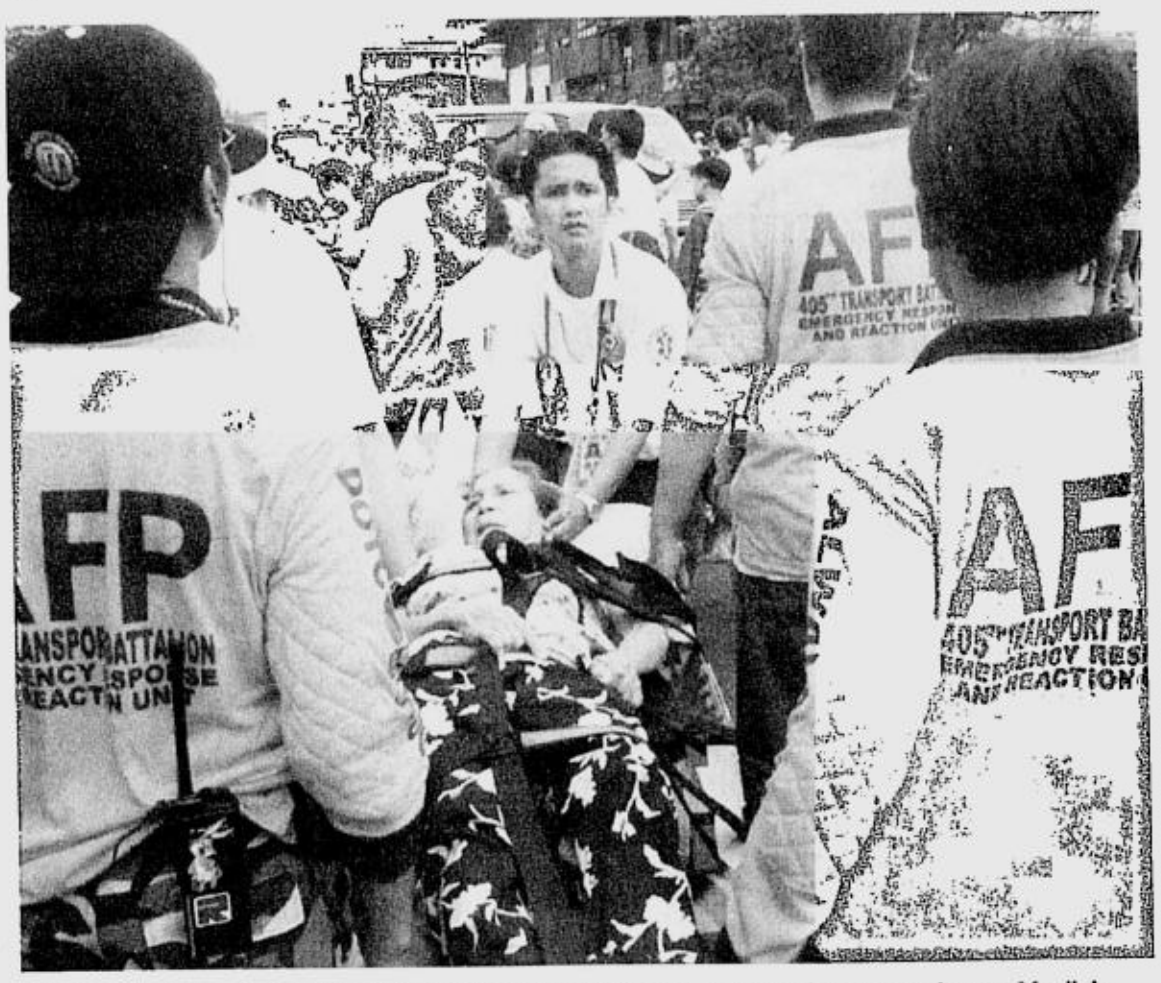
Confiscated

By mid-afternoon yesterday, the WPD has confiscated 269 bladed weapons, 24 bottles of liquor, 22 playing cards and gameboards, 62 cassette players and 24 cans of paint from visitors to the North Cemtery.

In Caloocan, police chief Supt. Benjardi Mantele confiscated at least two sacks of various types of kitchen knives from a vendor.

According to Royce Formajero, head of the Manila Traffic and Peace Keeping Action Team (Mataapat), their group confiscated only 31 bladed weapons yesterday, less than what they collected on Oct. 31.

Administrator Edilberto Dela Cruz, in a radio interview, said that about 60,000 people flocked to Manila South Cemetery yesterday to visit their dead.



A TEAM of paramedics tend to an old woman who has passed out due to the extreme heat at Manila's North cemetery. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Dela Cruz said that they have also coordinated with the city department of public service to take care of the cemetery's garbage.

Less people this year

In Quezon City and the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) area, local government and police officials said that the number of visitors in the city's cemeteries decreased as compared to last year.

"Perhaps, most people have opted to remember their departed loved ones at home, or maybe because others have already visited the cemeteries as early as Thursday afternoon to avoid the huge influx of people," said a Caloocan police official.

There are at least 21 public and private cemeteries in Camanava, while Quezon City has at least six.

Unlike in the past, the All Saint's Day observance was more somber.

"This is quite unusual, but a very welcome development," said a ranking police officer. "In the past, police stations in the Camanava area had high records of crimes during this season."

"I think everybody toed the line," said NCRPO chief deputy director General Reynaldo Velasco. "Everybody was patient enough to bear with the situation. It's a good indicator that we are doing fine."

In Eastern Metro Manila, a 60-year-old man reportedly died of heart failure inside a comfort room in a major cemetery while four teenagers were nabbed for smoking pot.

Vendors hit paydirt in graveyards

By Tina Santos and Edson Tandoc Jr.

SINCE Thursday, vendors have staked out the cemeteries in Metro Manila. Some have been sleeping there for three nights in a row.

Despite warnings from the Department of Health, and a lot of orders from local police and government units barring them from entering the cemeteries, the vendors were everywhere, enjoying brisk sales.

At the Sangandaan Cemetery in Caloocan City on Friday, vendors, mostly selling street foods, have strategically positioned themselves not only in the cemetery's entry points but even in the narrow alleys within.

But if cemetery goers have expected to see the usual slue of sandwiches, fruit juices, sodas, fishballs, candies and other junk food in cemeteries, they would have another thing coming.

Vendors at the Sangandaan Cemetery have now expanded their line to include glassware, clothes, toys, even power tools.

In Quezon City cemeteries, colorful buntings were strung from high wires and numerous stalls sold food, including green mangoes, hotdogs and barbecues. Various items were also peddled, including chicks dyed in blue, red and pink.

A few enterprising souls had even set up food stalls in front of their family mausoleums.

"This is one occasion we always look forward to because we really earn bigger than usual," Rosemarie Sapno, 35, a fishball vendor at the Baesa Cemetery, said in Filipino.

Let, 50, started selling candles and street foods at the Sangandaan Cemetery since she was single. Now, she has her granddaughter helping her in their makeshift stall.

DOH Secretary Manuel Dayrit earlier warned the public against buying food from ambulant vendors when they visit their late loved ones in cemeteries following the outbreak of cholera in Tondo, Manila on Oct. 28. Over 300 Tondo residents were hospitalized.

Dayrit stressed that people going to the cemeteries should bring their own food and water to avoid food poisoning.

He added that the cleanliness of common foods peddled in cemeteries are doubtful since they likely have been exposed to dust and other disease-causing organisms.

This dentist sells flowers in cemeteries

By Luige del Puerto

THE DEAD brings out the best in Filipino entrepreneurs.

Every All Saints' Day, dentist Chris Mahalat of Marikina City would exchange his dental tools for a cutter and wire to arrange and sell flowers for the dead.

"Besides the profit, this brings out the artist in me," Chris said in his rented stall in front of City Hall. "If you are really good in this business, you can triple your money."

Chris and his brother Jim, an accountant, have been selling flowers every Halloween for the last three years.

Both said that they are proud gays.

Chris said he had always fancied arranging flowers, which he said is the key to selling them.

"Customers like it when you give them exactly the kind of arrangement that they want," he said. "But they come back to you when you surpass their expectations."

One of Chris' regular customers is Carol Moriel, a housewife of Marikina.

On Friday, she had Jim arrange for her Chrysanthemum and Malaysian Mumps, which cost the woman P300.

Moriel said she met Chris when the latter was still running an ice cream parlor. "He is really good at arranging flowers," she said.

People visiting their loved ones yesterday at the Loyola Memorial Park were drawn to a real estate stall, the only one of its kind in the area.

"There is always a first time for everyone," explained Jun Matue, 40, of Human Shelter Realty, a real estate firm based in the city.

"We figured people would be here, not in malls," Jun said. "So we thought, why not set up a stall here?"

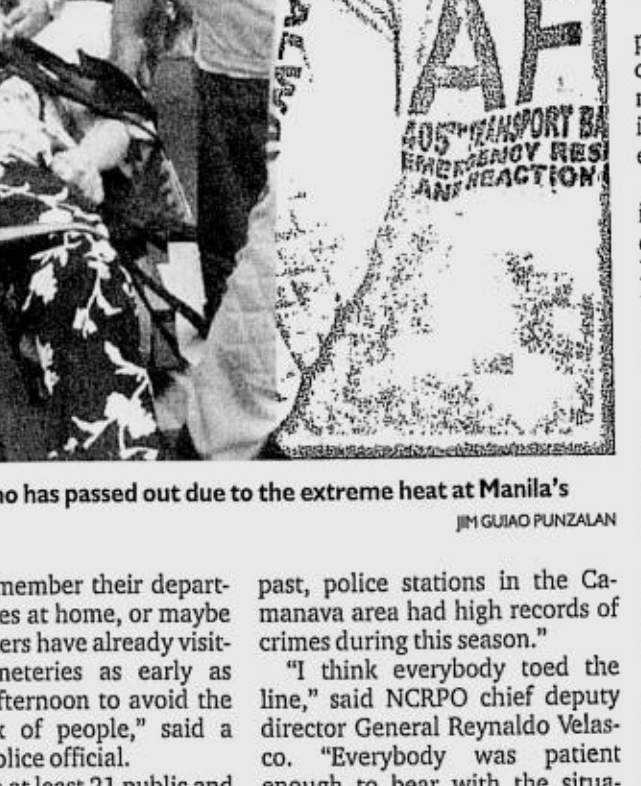
To their surprise, the cemetery management did not object, Matue said.

The idea was a hit.

Matue said since Friday, they had distributed at least 1,000 flyers, which surpassed what they could distribute even in commercial centers at times.

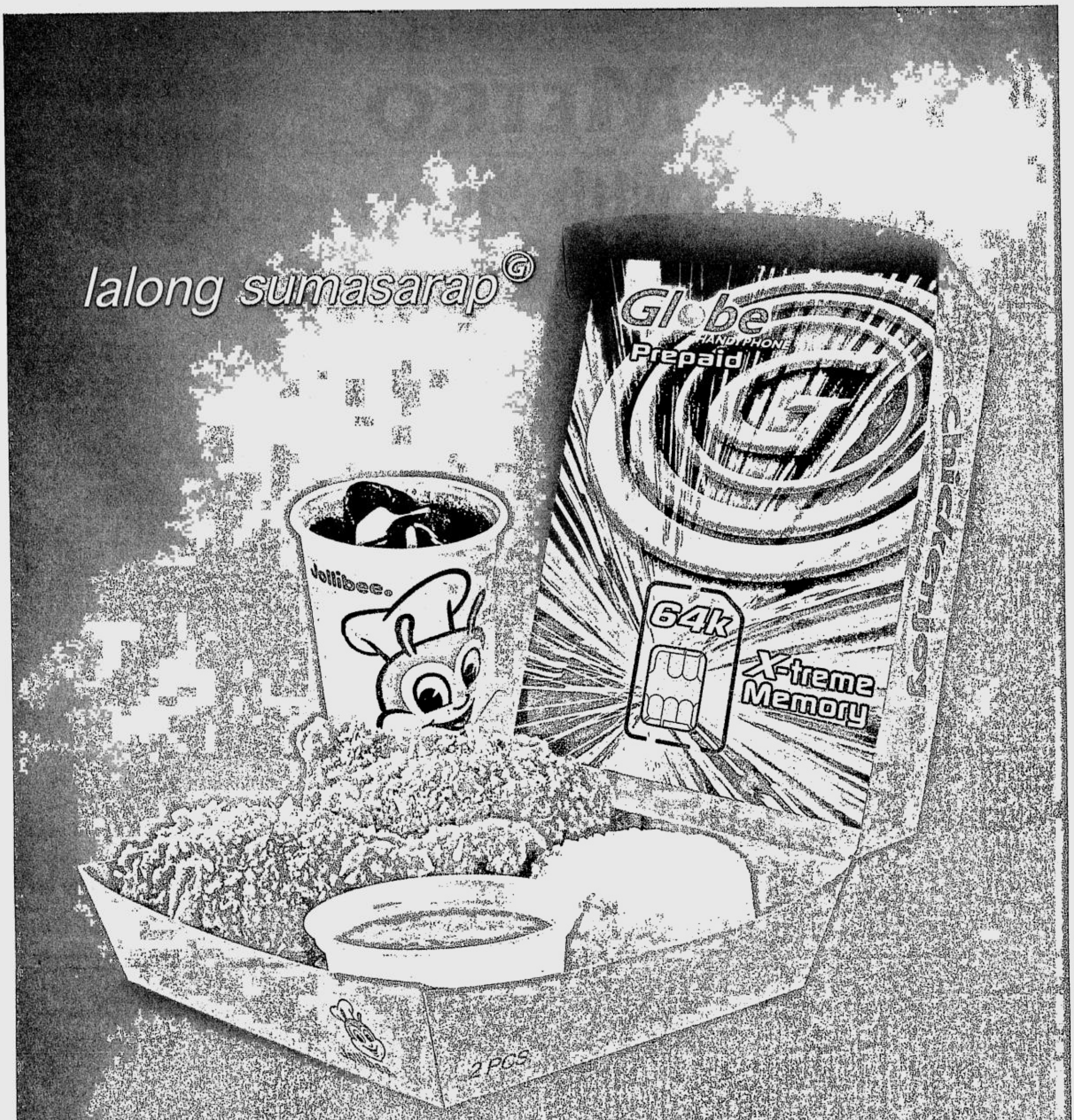
"People come here even at night," he said. "It's very exciting."

Matue said he expects other real estate firms to do the same next year.



DENTIST Chris Malahat and his brother Jim, shed their day jobs to arrange flowers for the dead. JOAN BONDOC

lalong sumasarap©



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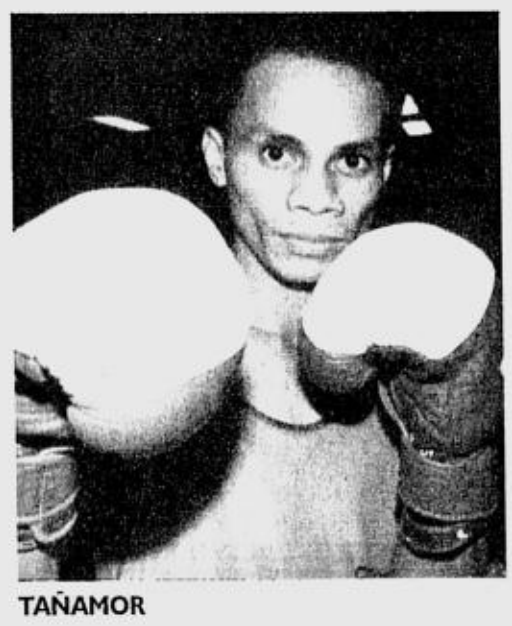
AFRO-ASIAN GAMES

Tañamor bags boxing gold


TAÑAMOR

By Roy Luarca

HYDERABAD, India—Harry Tañamor's all-out attack in the last round handed him the lightflyweight crown in boxing, capping the Philippines' fine showing in the 1st Afro-Asian Games here.

Trailing local bet Mohd Ali Qamar up to the second round, Tañamor rallied and engaged the Indian in a toe-to-toe exhange that eventually ended the bout at 19-19.

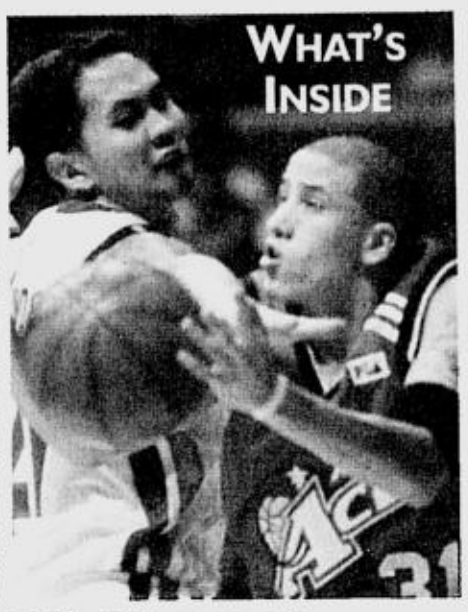
When all the judges' scores were taken, however, the 25-year-old Cagayan de Oro City find eventually emerged champion via a 65-63 count at the Balayogi Indoor Stadium Friday night.

Compatriot Violito Payla wasn't as fortunate, however, dropping a 20-16 decision and settling for the silver against another Indian, Akhil Kumar, in the flyweight division.

Top Filipino netter Johnny Arcilla also yielded his men's singles final to Indian Vijay Kannan, 6-1, 6-1, at the SAAD Tennis Complex.

Still, the lone gold and the two silvers were enough to catapult the Philippines to 15th overall in the medal race dominated as expected by powerhouse China.

TAÑAMOR/ A22



■ Hotdogs seek vital win today /A22

■ Hermie tells Luisito to keep on punching /A23

■ Lewis stars for Sonics; Kidd shines /A24

■ Wind Blown heads elite Philtobo-Mitra Cup cast /A26

BASKETBALL: Raptors vs T-Wolves; 9 a.m.; Cavs vs Blazers; 11:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—Toronto clashes with Minnesota while Cleveland takes on Portland.

TENNIS: BNP Paribas Masters; 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Star Sports—Catch the semifinals and the finals from Paris.

POOL: World Pool Masters 2003; 1 p.m. (r) and 7:30 p.m.; ESPN—Mika "The Iceman" Immonen tries to cool off Ralf Souquet while Steve Davis battles Alex Lely.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

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P255/70 R16 Wrangler RT/S OWL	P5,858	P4,800	P1,058
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GOODYEAR One Revolution Ahead

Hotdogs seek vital win today

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel Beer
6:30 p.m.—Shell vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS fights for dear life when it tackles Shell even as San Miguel Beer tries to cement its claim of second place in Group A at the resumption of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Their fate hanging by a thread, coach Ryan Gregorio and the TJ Hotdogs must wrap up their elimination round campaign with the Turbochargers on a successful note, and pray that Alaska fumbles against Barangay Ginebra to forge a playoff for the last and final quarterfinal seat.

Gregorio will again pin his hopes on the high-scoring Lenny Cooke and the Hotdogs' support crew composed of Kerby Raymundo, Rodney Santos, Noy Castillo, Boyet Fernandez, Billy Mamaril, Rey Evangelista, Andy Seigle and Gilbert Demape.

The TJ Hotdogs lost to the Sta. Lucia Realtors exactly a week ago that pulled Gregorio's troops back at the Group A cellar sporting a 3-9 record, a full game behind the Aces (4-8).

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
*Sta. Lucia	7	5
*San Miguel	5	7
*FedEx	5	8
Alaska	4	8
Purefoods	3	9
Group B		
*Coca-Cola	11	2
*Red Bull	10	2
*Talk N Text	7	5
*Ginebra	6	6
Shell	3	9
*quarterfinalist		

With only a measure of pride and dignity at stake, the Turbochargers will be playing without any pressure at all as they are bound to take an early Christmas break after losing five consecutive games.

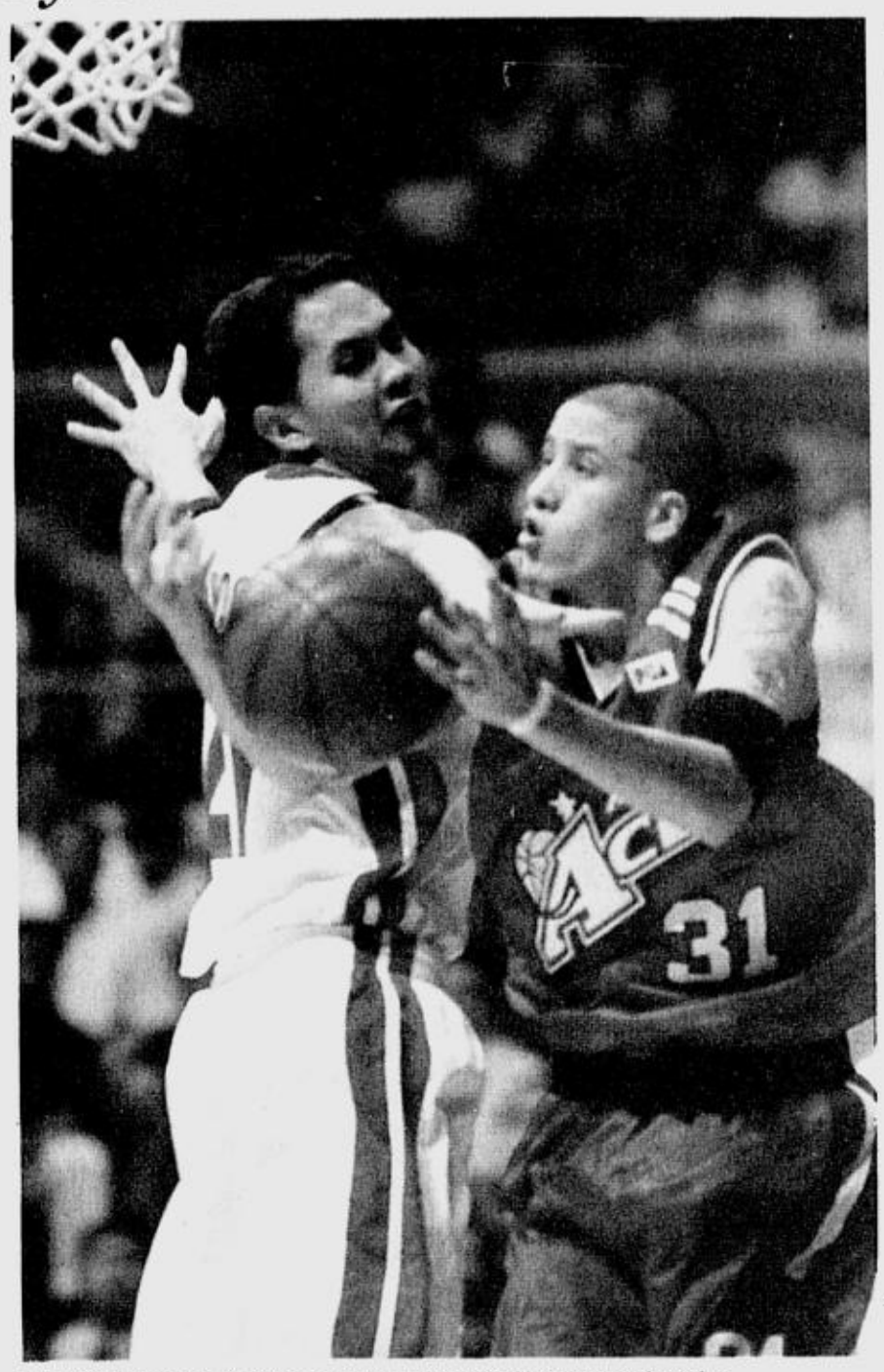
The Turbochargers had racked up only three wins and registered nine setbacks, posing almost no challenge against the Gin Kings (6-6) for the last quarterfinal slot in Group B.

Chances are, the Gin Kings are in a much better position to improve their standings when they conclude the elims against the Alaska Aces after injuries struck key players Ali Peek and Brandon Lee Cablay.

Cablay, who suffered from a hyperextended right knee, will sit it out for at least a week while Peek, the Aces' top scoring local, underwent the knife on his left knee, has been given three more weeks to recover from the operation.

Quarterfinalists Sta. Lucia Realty and San Miguel Beer clash in the other featured encounter with the Beermen aiming to form a cast around the No. 2 quarterfinal spot in Group A.

Win or lose, the Realtors are already assured of the top seeding by virtue of their 7-5 record while a San Miguel setback would leave the door ajar to the Aces and the FedEx Express to cop one of the top two slots in their division.



KERBY Raymundo (left) should step up for the Hotdogs against the Turbochargers today. PDI PHOTO

N'vidad, Frias gain badminton tilt final

MARK Alvin Natividad and Wilmer Frias forged a title showdown after hurdling their separate rivals Friday night in the boys' 18-under singles of the Toby's Age-Group Badminton Championships at the La Salle-Greenhills gym.

Natividad clipped Michael Paclibar, 15-13, 15-6, while Frias tamed Marlon Villarin, 15-8, 15-6.

Later, Natividad teamed up with Villarin to beat Jefferson Tablante and JB Villamedez, 15-6, 15-8, for a seat in the boys' doubles finals while Paclibar and Chona Rivera defeated Tablante and Jemmelyn Vecencio, 15-6, 15-5, to advance in the mixed doubles finals.

The finals of the 10-under, 12-under and 14-under divisions will be played today starting at 10 a.m. at the SM Megamall Activity area while the 16-under and 18-under divisions will be held tomorrow.

In the girls' 16-under singles class, Maiqui Laurel whipped Samantha Huang, 11-6, 11-2, to advance in the finals against Jertie Kagalingan, who scored an 11-9, 11-9 victory over Jean Pearl Go.

Laurel and Huang won by default over Kristine Cinco and Jaymee Ann Ubaldo to advance in the doubles finals against Rochelle Anne Reyes and Kagalingan, 15-1, 15-2 winners over Rachelle Tengco and Chelsea Felix.

In the boys' 14-under singles category, Kevin Dalisay won over Renz Marion Vibas, 15-6, 15-7, to advance in the finals against Kevin Tim Ang, who beat Adrian Pagsanjan, 15-2, 15-4.

Pagsanjan and Jackilyn Cudia defeated Tuason-Frias, 15-8, 15-5, to advance in the mixed doubles finals against Antonio Gadi and Jenina Paredes, who beat Miguel Chan and Charisse Torres, 15-6, 15-7.

Paredes posted an 11-0, 11-2 victory over Carla Jenina Lizardo to advance in the singles finals against Karyn Velez, who prevailed over Lisa Denise Encarnacion, 11-7, 13-11.

Marave, Silverio score in China F3 series

THE PHILIPPINES has established itself as an emerging power in Asian motorsports through the efforts of Pepon Marave and Jojo Silverio, who both clinched the championships in their respective divisions during the fifth and penultimate leg of the Asian Formula 3 (AF3) Series.

The event, sponsored by Yokohama tires, Denso and Regional Container Lines, was held on the 3.3-kilometer long Goldenport Circuit in Beijing, China last Oct. 26.

Marave and Silverio, thus became the next Filipinos to win international open-wheel series since Enzo Pastor won the Asian Formula renault title last year. Pastor now drives for Casino Filipino Team Tom's Petron in the Asian Formula 3 Series.

Marave of the Shell Casino Filipino Team Tom's finished first in round 9 and second in round 10 to raise his points total to 165, assuring him of the International Class title with one race remaining in the series.

"I'm happy for my team and my sponsors, and happy to be Champion. To be crowned Champion is very special to me and I will cherish it always," an ecstatic Marave said.

Mark Goddard of the United Kingdom, the 2002 Asian Formula 3 champion, did not figure well in the leg following an engine seizure during qualifying that put him out of the race and virtually cost him any chance of catching Marave in the series.

Denso Hanjin FJ3 driver Richard Joson of the Philippines took second place in round 9 and captured first in round 10 to spoil Marave's bid for a sweep of the China leg. "It wasn't an easy win," said Joson. "I lost my first gear in the earlier race and tried to get it back. It was difficult to run in second gear. I tried to chase Pepon when he made a mistake at the hairpin, I took advantage and went for it." Joson's victory moved into second overall in the series ahead of Goddard, who has been relegated to third.

The final leg of the Asian Formula 3 Series 2003 will be held at the Batangas Racing Circuit from Nov. 29 to 30 and will be covered live on television. For more information on the series, log on to the AF3 website at www.asianf3.net.

Tañamor bags boxing gold

From page A21

The Filipinos wound up with a 1-4-10 medal haul, the two other silvers coming from long jumper Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and swimmer Liane Marquez in the 50m backstroke for women.

"*Nakuha ko na ang* range *ko bandang huli, bumuka na ang depensa*," said Tañamor, bronze medalist in this year's World Boxing Championships held in Thailand.

PAYLA

Coach Pat Gaspi said he knew that Tañamor would win, but felt that the margin should have been bigger since Tañamor landed the clearer punches against his victim in the Busan Asian Games quarterfinals.

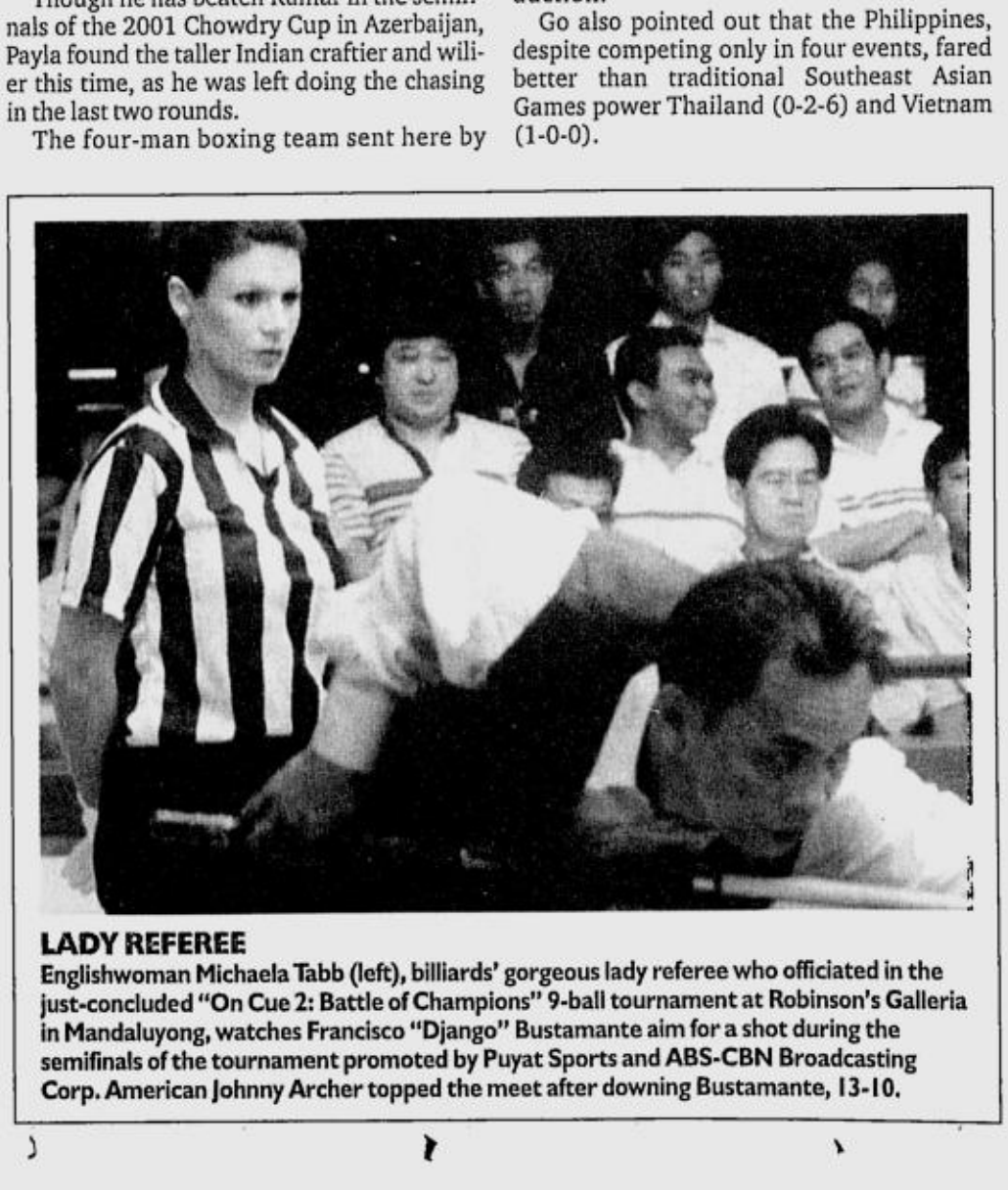
Though he has beaten Kumar in the semifinals of the 2001 Chowdry Cup in Azerbaijan, Payla found the taller Indian craftier and wilier this time, as he was left doing the chasing in the last two rounds.

The four-man boxing team sent here by Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez turned out to be the most productive of the lean Philippine delegation here, accounting for 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze, courtesy of featherweight Roel Laguna.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, who served as chef de mission of the Asian contingent in the 97-nation meet said the results proved that Asia is still ahead of Africa as far as sports is concerned.

With China cornering 25 golds, 11 silvers and 5 bronzes and India adding 19-32-29, Asia combined for an 82-80-83 output, way ahead of Africa's 49-51-66 production.

Go also pointed out that the Philippines, despite competing only in four events, fared better than traditional Southeast Asian Games power Thailand (0-2-6) and Vietnam (1-0-0).



LADY REFEREE
Englishwoman Michaela Tabb (left), billiards' gorgeous lady referee who officiated in the just-concluded "On Cue 2: Battle of Champions" 9-ball tournament at Robinson's Galleria in Mandaluyong, watches Francisco "Django" Bustamante aim for a shot during the semifinals of the tournament promoted by Puyat Sports and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. American Johnny Archer topped the meet after downing Bustamante, 13-10.

Uncle Sam uncrowns King Louie

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WRITE it off.

Sad as it is, there will be no more last stab at glory for Luisito Espinosa. The last hurrah for the two-time world boxing champion has been cancelled. Knocked out by America.

"It pains me to see it end this way," said Hermie Rivera, the architect behind Espinosa's climb to ring glory when King Louie snatched the WBA world bantamweight crown by a sensational first-round knockout of Khaokor Galaxy in 1989 in Bangkok. "Louie has been preparing hard for this one last fight of his but then, America killed it."

Espinosa was scheduled to challenge Cassius Baloyi of South Africa next month for the IBO world super bantamweight title at the Luneta, site of Louie's two successful title defenses not too long ago. Noel Rivera, Hermie's son now living in Newark, San Francisco, has taken over as Espinosa's manager. Noel, too, has been devastated; he's devoted the last five years or so of his life re-charting the course of Espinosa's boxing career. And now this.

The culprit is the parole visa, a piece of American document denied Espinosa, who was also a former world featherweight champion, that would have allowed Louie to go back to his abode in San Francisco after the fight with Baloyi.

Noel Rivera did everything to secure the precious trip pass. He even wrote California Representative Fortney (Pete) Stark—to no avail.

"Time is of the essence here," Hermie quoted his son Noel as saying during their telephone conversation. "And I believe him. Louie is 36, and for him, time is as precious as gold. Securing the parole visa really takes time and I cannot allow him to climb the ring again if I feel his knees aren't there anymore to withstand the rigors of the sport."

The December fight for Espinosa would have been perfect. Noel has been training him for months in time for Louie's projected peaking against Baloyi. With the cancellation of the fight, lost is the chance for Espinosa to become the first Filipino to win three world crowns in three divisions—with each one scored in three different decades, not to mention the specter of having won all three in two millenniums in the event the fight had pushed through and won it.

The bitterest part of it was that the assured purse of $25,000 for Espinosa went down the drain as a result of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service's decision to block Louie's departure for Manila. Louie has been toiling to keep both ends meet in America for his family (he's got two kids), doing odd jobs like tending bars and other similar menial chores.

To her credit, immigration lawyer Marcia Perez from the Bay Area has exhausted all legal remedies to secure the parole visa. Still, the INS was adamant. "Without the parole visa, Louie may not be able to go back to America anymore," said Perez.

Louie, whose suit to collect his promised purse of $150,000 for knocking out Argentine Carlos Rios in 1997 in Koronadal, South Cotabato, is pending at a Manila court (Sammy Estimo is Louie's lawyer for the case), is torn between leaving America for good and gunning for his third world crown. But then, to every man—and to a Filipino at that—the family seems to always come first. Louie has invested so much time already building his family in America that to throw all that away for a fight would simply be too romanticist an option. Theatrical, yes, and therefore would add to the continuing saga that is Luisito "Lindol" Espinosa. But for Louie to choose coming home to fight is too suicidal indeed and, therefore, the attendant risks aren't worth the gamble.

America wins and Louie loses. I'm not that surprised.

Since time immemorial, it's been always that way between Uncle Sam and his Little Brown Brother.

***

FASTBREAK. If plans had pushed through, I'd be neck-high by now insofar as oyster intake is concerned. That's because I did this piece in advance to pave the way for a smooth trip to Roxas City, a charming city down South that Dr. Nono Cosio has traded for his rustic birthplace that is Sta. Cruz, Laguna. How I wish though that I could clink glasses with this city's most famous son today, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, by the sea called Baybay Beach. But it's all right, Mar, if you couldn't. I'm sure your constituents, the Tutica-Fernandez clan (Tia Rosie, Dante & Ching, Nelson & Vielma, Diding Mosher, Nonong & Astrid and their son Patrick, and Madam Inday Tutica), will be more than a bunch of gracious hosts for me and Sol Juvida in this undisputed Seafood Capital of the Philippines. Hic and burp!

Despite setback, Hermie tells Luisito to keep on punching

KAPUT! Gone!

So said boxing broadcaster Hermie Rivera of the dream of his former fighter Luisito Espinosa to cap his career with a third world boxing title in a third weight division.

"Those who insist in postponing the fight against International Boxing Organization superfeatherweight champion Cassius Baloyi of South Africa are in for a big letdown," rued the man who steered the former Tondo boy to the heights of glory in 1989.

"The likelihood of staging this thriller is akin to finding a hen's tooth in Don King's palatial pad," he added.

Of course, the haymaker for Espinosa and Rivera is the bureaucracy of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service. It will take an eternity before Espinosa can secure a parole visa or a waiver so he can leave the US, come here and fight Baloyi in December."

Sans a parole visa or waiver, Espinosa is stuck in Daly City, jeopardizing his green card application and he may not even be allowed to return to the mainland.

"I am earnestly pleading to Louie to call it a day in as much as the last bus has passed us. Opportunities such as this, which left us totally drained despite our concerted efforts to save the promo, will not, sad to say, come our way again," said Rivera.

"Indeed, breaks such as the Cassius-Luisito IBO world title set-to are as rare as finding a pagan hearing Sunday mass or an opposition slate scoring an upset in the upcoming presidential polls.

ESPINOSA (right) with Rivera

Sayang, I've done what was needed (sponsors, site, media support and the all-important concord between the two camps on matters of contract provisions), working tirelessly with Noel (his son and current handler of Espinosa), burning the wires till the wee hours of the morning, *pero bigo pa rin*," wailed Rivera. "For that, let's thank the almighty INS."

"The avenue left for Luisito to snatch another world title is kaput, leaving me with no option save to convince the two-time champ (and future Hall of Famer) to hang it up. I'm certain Louie will balk but we're in no room to sidestep this mean blow from the south of nowhere," Rivera said.

"It's been grand Champ, a thrilling two-decade ride to fame and limited fortune, one that I'll always cherish. As always, keep on punching," Rivera told his former ward.

Another tragic death in boxing

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

LOCAL boxing suffered another major blow following the fight-related death of Freddie "Amang" Gimay last Monday at the municipal gymnasium in Titay, Zamboanga Zibugay Province.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER revealed that Gimay, a native of Maapag, Valencia City in Bukidnon, was knocked out in the 8th round of a scheduled 10-rounder by opponent Rober Gadian in a fight card promoted by Bert Rodrigo.

Filmore Tuastumban immediately halted the fight after Gimay suffered the knockdown.

Gimay was brought to the nearby Sibud Hospital where he was declared dead by attending physicians Tuesday morning.

Games and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva, who has been heavily lobbying for utmost safety of boxers since he took office, has already been informed of Gimay's death and expressed sadness over the unfortunate event.

Villanueva was quoted as saying he will work for the immediate release of an amount from the Boxers' Fund to help Gimay's family.

Tanauan chessers win

TANAUAN CITY (Philippine Army) chess team topped the recently concluded 2nd Alabang 2050 and below chess team championships dubbed as "Alabang chair Vic Ulanday Chess Cup by edging D'Cavaliers, 2.5-1.5, in the seventh and final round at the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa City.

The ninth-seeded Tanauan City-Army squad, which garnered a total 6.5 points, is composed of NM Darwin Laylo, US Master Rico Salimbagat, comebacking Gabriel Layesa, Shell active chess junior grand champion Daniel Causo, Chito Lat and Edwin Castillo.

They received the top purse of P25,000 plus trophies and medals in the seven-round Swiss system tournament using a match point format.

The meet was supported by Muntinlupa City mayor Jaime Fresnedi, vice mayor Jojay Alcaraz, councilor's Raul Corro and Jhun Carlos, Lipovitan-IRA, San Mig Pub-ATC, Webshuttle Computer Center and organized by the Southern Chess Association (SCA) directors.

"I am proud of my boys," said playing team captain Chito Lat whose stint was backed by Tanauan City mayor Alfredo Corona, vice mayor Dado Macanoli and chess prodigy Teodulfo "Jojo" Nones.

PSGDO-Laguna, under the supervision of Dennis Lazaro, Jun Mantupar and Willy Abalos, scored 6.0 points to finish at solo second place and receive P15,000 plus trophies and medals.

Third placer was Cavite GMA with 5.5 points and P10,000 plus trophies and medals.

Adjudged category winner were P.A. Alvarez Realty (top private company), DAR (top government agency), San Sebastian College "B" (top school) and Ms. Edelred De Jesus (best muse).*Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Barbosa trips Argentine

FILIPINO Oliver Barbosa defeated Gabriel Irigoyen of Argentina to register the only win for the RP youth chess team after Friday's 9th round of the 2003 World Youth Chess Championships in Halkidiki, Greece.

Barbosa raised his total to 5.5 points and climbed to a tie for 14th to 30th places in the boys' 18 and under division.

Barbosa will meet IM Matthieu Cornette of France in the 10th and penultimate round. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

SPORTSWATCH

PUTTING CHALLENGE
Jungolfer Enzo Almario (third from left) joins the winners of the recent fifth leg of the Samsung Putting Challenge at the Cebu Country Club course. The others are Nonoy Tirol and Jovi Neri. With them are Ms Luz Watin (extreme right), regional sales manager for Visayas and Mindanao of Samsung Electronics Philippines Inc., and Boy Blue Ocampo (extreme left), president of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group. Not in photo are ladies champ Vicky Moraza and senior titlist Wellington Lim.

Sammy Sosa staying with Cubs

CHICAGO—Sammy Sosa is happy right where he is. Sosa turned down a chance to pursue free agency Friday, announcing that he is keeping the last two seasons of his four-year contract with the Chicago Cubs. He will earn $33 million over the remainder of the deal. "I have said all along I wanted to remain a Cub forever," Sosa said in a statement. "We had such an exciting year in 2003, for both myself and for Cub fans everywhere. I am already looking forward to next season. I know with Dusty Baker as the manager and the direction our team is headed, it will be another exciting year." Sosa signed a $72-million, four-year extension during spring training in 2001. Under the deal, the slugger got the right to terminate the contract after this season or exercise player options for $16 million next season and $17 million in 2005. *AP*

Black cage clinic returns Nov. 8

INTERESTED young basketeers can still enlist with Norman Black's Burlington Basketball Skills Camp as it turns on Nov. 8 at Phelps Dodge Gym, Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong. The cage clinic, which will be held 9 a.m. to 12 noon for seven Saturdays, is open to boys and girls aged 12 to 18 years. Aside from teaching the regular advanced scientific cage techniques in shooting, dribbling, passing, ballhandling, defense, rebounding, offense, movement with and without the ball, the Burlington socks-sponsored camp is also geared toward further developing the basketball skills of young players through plyometrics. Black, the multititled coach and Burlington endorser, will be joined in the clinic by former PBA basketeers, Samboy Lim, Hector Calma, Chito Loyzaga, Eric Reyes, Biboy Ravanes and other cage coaches. For inquiries, call 894-3576/894-3014, or proceed to Unit 222 Cityland 8, Buendia Ave., Makati.

Araneta hosts Grand Championship

THE MUCH-AWAITED showdown of derby champions happens at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 10, 12 and 14 via the NCA Grand Championship 8-Stag Derby. Bannering the participants are former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and Jake and Butch Macasaet, who bagged the Ucap and NCA Stagfighter awards recently. More than 80 cockers and breeders all over the country have so far registered and among the latest to sign up were Ucap president Raymond Velayo, hotelier Biboy Enriquez, Rene Medina and Ricky de Guzman of California, Boy Royo, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Danilo Hinlo, Nanny de la Gente, Riochi Saito of Japan, Nene Abello, Bingbong Coscoluella, Pat Debulgado Jr., Mac Tanalgo, Jun Jalbuena and Gerry Ramos. Participants must bring copies of screening records during the submission of weights on Sunday, Nov. 9, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum green gate. For inquiries, call 911-3101 and 911-2928.

Luzon tourney lures 40 participants

ALL is set for the second leg of Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association 7-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit on Nov. 4, 6 and 8 (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday). Seeing action in the first round eliminations on Tuesday are 40 participants. Round two is on Thursday while the finale is on Saturday. Participants must submit entries tomorrow, Nov. 3, at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, contact 924-5051, Roligon at 833-2275 and 833-1638, or LGBA secretariat at 911-8969. A total of 86 entries competed in the first leg last Oct. 21. Palawan sportsman Mauro Prieto's bet, Anito, was solo champion with seven points. Sponsors were Washout Shampoo, Pitfighter Feeds, Enertone, Derby Ace, Amtyl 500, Supremo Pellets and Strike Power Pellets.

Cavite int'l derby kicks off Dec. 1

LOCAL and international cockfighting heavyweights are seeing action in the annual Cavite International 7-Cock Derby scheduled on Dec. 1, 3 and 5 at the Cavite Coliseum in Bacoor. Hosting the event are Sen. Ramon Revilla and his long-time friend, lawyer Rudy Salud, along with Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and William Co. Part of the derby's proceeds will be donated by Senator Revilla to the Philippine Center for Mental Health. For an entry fee of P30,000, the guaranteed prize at stake is P2 million. Submission of weights is on Nov. 30, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Interested parties may contact Cavite Coliseum at 046-970991 or 0918-5674921 (Ferdie Bautista).

Exciting 8-round bout in Fistorama

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features an exciting eight-round elimination bout in the lightflyweight division with Sukarno Banjao of Elorde Boxing Stable facing Larry Mede of Baguio City. The winner will advance to the finals and fight for the Fistorama lightflyweight championship in December. The fight was held recently at the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Bicutan, Taguig. The show is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays, on RPN-9 and is backed by Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. Golf Power follows the boxing program at 3 p.m.

TOUGH TRUCK MEET
Caltex Delo Sports recently signed up as presentor of the 3rd Tough Truck Challenge which unfolds on Nov. 28-30 at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Brian Diaz (right), president of the organizing Manila Offroaders Inc., is shown with Jean Ernest Maningo (2nd from left), product category manager of Caltex Lubricants, secretary Portia Abanilla (3rd from left) and Mori treasurer Ramon To-Ong. The Tough Truck Challenge will feature the country's top drivers aboard their good-looking and tough-performing sports utility vehicles and 4x4 trucks.

WINNING TEAM
Members of the Se Jo Tong team celebrate after winning the title in the FCIAA basketball championship. Also shown are Se Jo Tong team manager Jimi Lim, coach Jake de Guia, assistant manager Jerry Tuiseng, Edward and Felix Lim, team consultant Alfredo Lim and assistant coaches Arthur Tong and Bong de la Cruz.

Shaquille: Feud with Kobe is

EL SEGUNDO, California—Shaquille O'Neal ended his media boycott, saying he and Kobe Bryant need each other and he's put the well-documented feud with his Los Angeles Lakers teammate behind him.

"It happens, it's over with, we just have to move on," O'Neal said Friday before the Lakers flew to Phoenix for a game on Saturday night. "He's boisterous. I'm boisterous. I don't take anything personally."

O'Neal hadn't spoken with reporters since Sunday, when he said after practice that the Lakers were "my team," adding that Bryant needed to be more of a team player—an observation based on two exhibition games last week.

O'Neal sniped several times previously during the preseason at Bryant, who has been ordered to stand trial on a sexual assault charge in Colorado.

Bryant ripped into O'Neal during a telephone interview with ESPN on Monday, calling him "childlike," "unprofessional," "selfish," "fat" and "jealous." It was the first overt sign of hostility between the superstars since midway through the 2000-01 season, when their simmering feud went public.

"We just have to move on and focus on what's good for the team," an upbeat O'Neal said after practice Friday. "I wasn't upset. If somebody's used to it, it's us. We know how to have a tough skin."

"In a marriage, if you keep talking about a problem the problem won't go away. It happened, we just have to move on. If you say something, a person can take things positively or negatively. We both took it negatively."

When asked if he felt comfortable with Bryant as a teammate, O'Neal replied: "Of course. I need him, he needs me, we need each other. He's the yin. I'm the yang. Opposites attract. We're just different. Off the court, he does his thing. Off the court, I do my thing."

O'Neal and Bryant led the Lakers to three straight championships from 2000-2002. They were eliminated last May by eventual champion San Antonio in the Western Conference semifinals.

Bryant said earlier in the week that he had put the feud behind him, but O'Neal refused comment until Friday.

Then, after beating teammate Karl Malone 3-1 in a 3-point shooting contest, instead of avoiding reporters as he left the court, he met them with a smile.

"I'm good, I'm cool today," he said.

Bryant spoke with reporters after sitting out Tuesday night's 109-93 season-opening victory because of soreness and weakness in his surgically repaired right knee and again W... didn't do so F...

Lakers coa... "pretty optir... against the S... be made until...

"He does... "We thought... than he does... adjustments ... much time he...

Regarding... in a good mo... day. Everythi...

Before the... Jackson des... somber. O'Ne... tile with the ... to Friday, but... good spirits d... session.

NBA ROUNDUP

Lewis stars for Sonics

NEW YORK—Aches, pains and an early start time couldn't slow down Rashard Lewis. The Los Angeles Clippers offered little resistance as well.

Lewis scored a career-high 50 points Saturday in Japan to lead the Seattle SuperSonics to a 124-105 victory over the Clippers.

"I felt sore when I woke up this morning," Lewis said following the game, which started at noon. "I wasn't really thinking about the points, but more about by how much we were up."

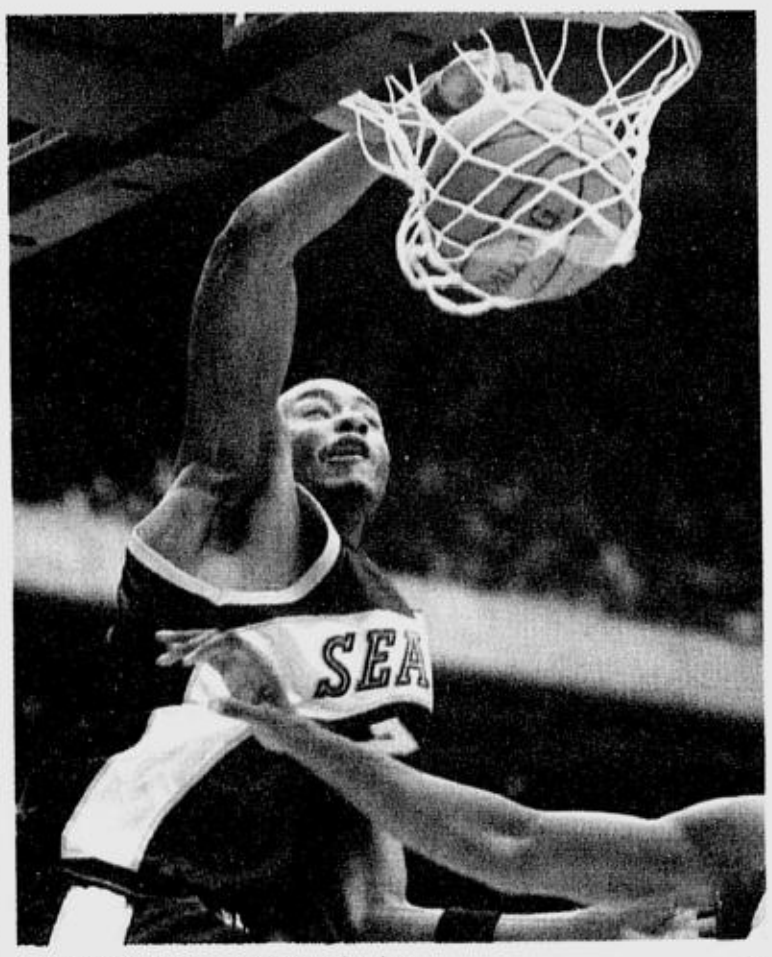
Seattle swept Los Angeles in the two-game, season-opening series at Saitama Super Arena. Lewis had a big hand in both victories.

"It just comes down to a lot of hard work over the summer," Lewis said. "I am one of the go-to guys on this team and it all comes down to making the right decisions and not making bad shots."

In other NBA games on Friday night, it was Toronto 82, Washington 79; Detroit 93, Miami 81; Milwaukee 93, Indiana 79; Boston 93, Memphis 91; New Jersey 84, Minnesota 61; Chicago 100, Atlanta 94; and Sacramento 100, Philadelphia 89.

Lewis, who led the Sonics with 25 points in Thursday's 109-100 win, scored 26 points in the first half Saturday and nearly matched that total after the break.

He made 18 of 25 shots from the field, 4-for-7 from 3-point range, and was 10-of-13 at the foul line. His previous career high was 37 points, set last season.



LEWIS dunks the ball with authority. AFP

"Obviously, it was not a good game for us," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said. "Rashard Lewis had an incredible game. We tried to double-team him late but he got hot and stayed hot all game."

Ronald Murray had 22 points and Brent Barry added 14 for Seattle, which had five scorers in double figures.

"Defense was a big key," Sonics coach Nate McMillan said.

Corey Maggette led the Clippers with 26 points, and Quentin Richardson was next with 19.

At Miami, Chauncey Billups scored 27 points and Detroit beat winless Miami, 93-81.

The Heat fell to 0-3, losing their home opener under new coach Stan Van Gundy.

Richard Hamilton added 24 points, including Detroit's final 10 after the Heat closed to 83-76. Coach Larry Brown earned his 880th career victory and his first with the Pistons, his seventh NBA team.

Detroit 18-year-old forward Darko Milicic made his NBA debut with 1:23 left, finishing with two rebounds, two turnovers and a foul.

At Indianapolis, Milwaukee rookie T.J. Ford had 11 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists in his NBA debut as Milwaukee beat Indiana, 93-79.

Michael Redd added 21 points and Tim Thomas scored 20 for the Bucks, who gave new coach Terry Porter his first win.

Pacers guard Reggie Miller left after the third quarter with a sore back and didn't return.

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jason Kidd picked up his game after Kenyon Martin went down with an ugly ankle injury as New Jersey whipped Minnesota, 84-61.

Kidd recorded his 51st career triple-double with 21 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds. Richard Jefferson added 26 points for the Nets in their home opener. *AP*

Complete results:

Toronto 82, Washington 79; Milwaukee 93, Indiana 79; Detroit 93, Miami 81; Boston 93, Memphis 91; New Jersey 84, Minnesota 61; Chicago 100, Atlanta 94; Seattle 124, LA Clippers 105 (in Saitama, Japan); Sacramento 100, Philadelphia 89.

NIKE EVENT

Freestyle Face Off under way Nov. 7

THE UPCOMING Nike Freestyle Face Off event takes the limelight with the unveiling of the Nike Freestyle Gear at the Rockwell Tent on Nov. 7.

A celebration of movement expressing creativity in sports and harmony with rhythm, the event is a mix and match of elements that brings the best out of sports-active individuals just like the Nike Freestyle Gear products.

Unique

The Nike Freestyle Gear consists of shoes and apparel that are unique, cool, creative and inspirational, namely: the Nike Shox Status TB, Nike Air Podposite III, Nike Sphere Dry Sleeveless Top, Nike Dri-Fit 28 Shorts and Nike Freestyle Basketball. These new products allow freedom of movement with coolness and comfort that is essential to performing the freestyle.

The Nike Shox Status TB, with a heel TPU plate that provides maximum support and exclusive Nike Show technology, is a shoe that gives players the trampoline effect for a responsive and snappy ride on the court. The Nike Air Podposite III is a lightweight and supportive shoe with a cutting-edge DNA-structure-inspired design.

The Nike Sphere Dry Sleeveless Top, meanwhile, is a shirt made with the innovative Sphere Dry fabric that reduces cling and draws moisture away from the skin for maximum coolness and comfort in movement. It is perfectly matched with the Nike Dri-Fit 28 Shorts, which has moisture-wicking Dri-Fit fabric that keeps skin drier than usual.

Completing the awesome Nike Freestyle Gear is the Nike Freestyle Basketball. All these products are now available in various Nike retail outlets nationwide.

"The Nike Freestyle Gear products suit well with the freestylers, who exude energy, creativity, coolness and style. These characters are symbolically present in the Stickman, which is the icon of freestyle," said Rely San Agustin, Nike Philippines marketing communications manager.

Tricks

Flexible, bouncy and equipped with an array of dazzling basketball and football movie tricks, the Stickman is that lean, black figure that is seen "facing off" with Brazilian football star Ronaldino and two streetballers in the recent Nike commercials.

The Nike Freestyle Face Off, presented by Nike and co-sponsored by National Sports Grill and MTV Asia starts at 6 p.m.

For inquiries, call ThemeWorks Events Company at 535-7467 or 531-1886.

Goosen shoots 66,

PALM HARBOR, Florida—South Africa's Retief Goosen shot a 5-under-par 66 to take the second round lead in the Chrysler Classic on Friday.

Goosen, searching for his first victory in the US this season, finished on 7-under 135 to lead Argentine Jose Coceres and J.J. Henry by one stroke.

First-round leader Charles Howell III carded an even-par 71 at the Copperhead Course, five shots more than his Thursday score, for a share of fourth place with Chad Campbell and Jerry Kelly on 137.

Briny Baird and France's Thomas Levet are tied for seventh another shot back.

World number two Vijay Singh, who could clinch the PGA Tour money title with a victory this week, carded a 1-under 70 and is tied for 10th, five sho... Goosen.

Winner of the 2001 US Open... 26th on the PGA Tour's money... tered the event hoping to con... position inside the top 30 for a p... week's season-ending Tour Cha...

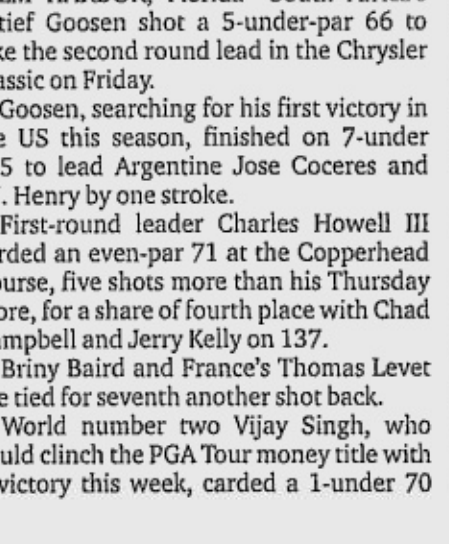
The South African went out ea... efited from the easier morning co...

He did not bogey a hole unt... when he missed the green wi... iron approach, struck a poor ch... missed his par putt of eight feet...

"I was a bit better in my iron... I seemed to hit it closer today... yesterday," Goosen said.

The 34-year-old said his p... been the weak point of his game...

RP sports to



GORDON

THE SPORTS Tourism and Adve... el Show will be launched on N... Clamshell 2 in Intramuros.

Organized by the Philippi... tion and Visitors Corp. and t... ment of Tourism, the progra... project the Philippines as an ... nation for sports-minded enth... tourists, according to Sports ... rector Cynthia Carrion.

"We are blessed with more ... islands and scenic sports spo... some of the best golf cou... world. Our beaches rank ... world's finest for snorkeling, ... and diving," Carrion said. ... nearly everything for sports ... ture seekers."

In a spin-off of the DOT's...

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

over

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iday.
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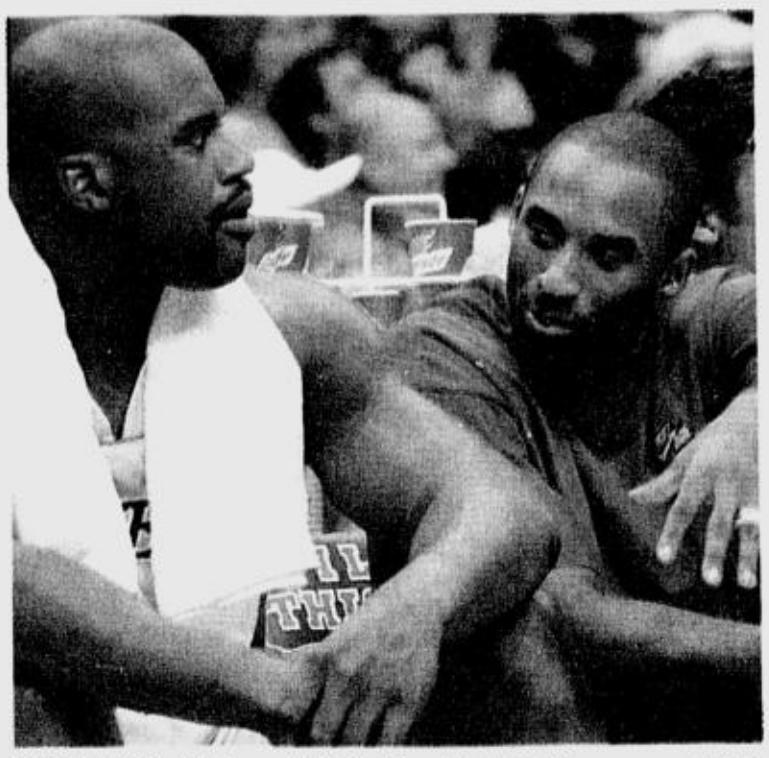
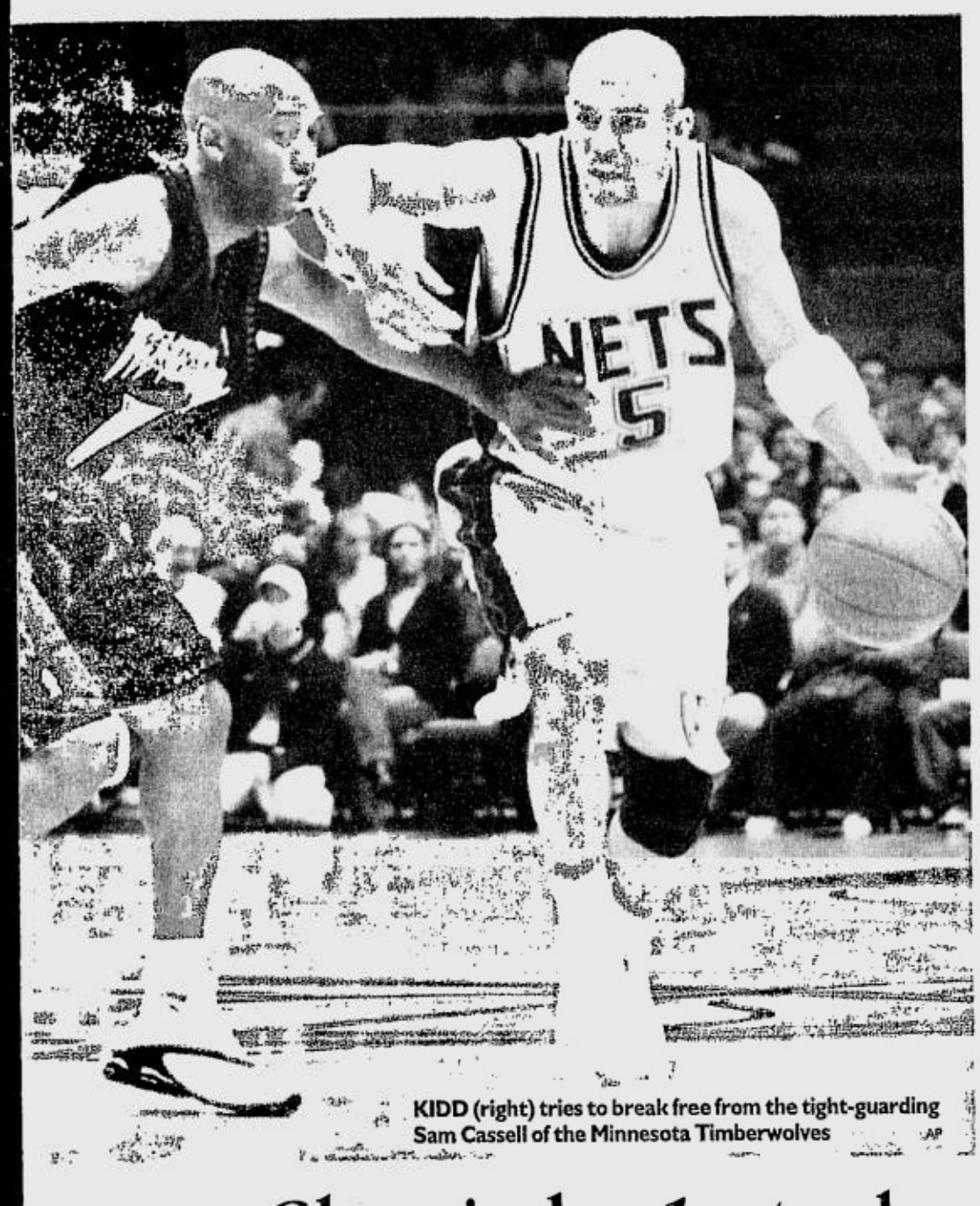
nistic" Bryant would play
uns but a decision wouldn't
sometime Saturday.
wear down," Jackson said.
he tired less in this practice
in most of them. We'll make
uring the game as far as how
plays."
O'Neal, Jackson said: "He's
od. He has been since Tues-
g's been downhill for us."
game against the Mavericks,
cribed O'Neal's mood as
l had been somewhat hos-
nedia in the days leading up
was pleasant and clearly in
uring a five-minute interview
AP



O'NEAL (left) with Bryant: We just have to move on. REUTERS

s; Kidd shines



KIDD (right) tries to break free from the tight-guarding Sam Cassell of the Minnesota Timberwolves AP

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"My iron play is probably not quite up to standard, which leads you to long putts on the green, but I think my putting has not quite been what it should be."

Ahn still leads at CJ meet

In Jeju Island, South Korea, Shi-hyun Ahn shot a 1-under-par 71 to take a three-stroke lead over defending champion Se Ri Pak and three other players at the US$1.2-million CJ Nine Bridges Classic on Saturday.

"I received some spotlight in this tournament and am satisfied with my performance," said the 19-year-old Ahn, who reeled off nine consecutive pars before shooting a birdie on the par-4 No.14 hole at the 5,764-meter (6,306-yard) Club at Nine Bridges on South Korea's Jeju Island.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin recovered with a 70 for a 145 aggregate and jumped to a tie for 26th from 50th.

"If I win this tournament, I plan to go to the United States to join the LPGA Tour," said Ahn, who tied a course record a day earlier with a 7-under-par 65 in the LPGA tournament. In all, she has shot 8-under 136.

Defending champion Se Ri Pak, Grace Park, Catriona Matthew and Laura Davies tied for second at 5-under 139.

Pak, a three-time winner on tour this year, had three birdies, and her only bogey of the day came on the 385-yard par-4 No. 11 hole when her second shot landed in a bunker. *Reuters, AP*

No.1 Andy enters Paris semifinals

PARIS—Brand new world No. 1 Andy Roddick struggled through his first day in the limelight but emerged victorious, reaching the Paris Masters semifinals with a 7-5, 7-6 (0) win over Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman on Friday.

Roddick's semifinal matchup is Tim Henman of Britain, who upset Wimbledon champion and third-seeded Roger Federer, 7-6 (5), 6-1.

Overcoming a tough opponent Friday, Roddick fired 19 aces—one barely visible at 219 kph (135 mph)—and 34 winners as he powered on in pursuit of his seventh title of the year.

RODDICK REUTERS

"I was just happy to go out and get a win," said Roddick, the reigning US Open champion. He called his newly attained top-ranking "a nice stat, but it would be even nicer if it was at the end of the year."

The year-end No. 1 ranking will be decided at the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup, when the world's top eight players square off in Houston, Texas, Nov. 8-16.

Roddick replaced Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero as the world's top-ranked player by advancing to the quarterfinals Thursday. Ferrero was eliminated by No. 14 seed Jiri Novak, who advanced to the semis with a 6-2, 6-1 win Friday over Morocco's Hicham Arazi.

At 21, Roddick is the fourth-youngest player atop the computer rankings since the ATP Tour introduced them in 1973.

In Quebec City, Canada, top seeds Mary Pierce of France and Maria Sharapova of Russia advanced to the semifinals of the US$170,000 Bell Challenge indoors tournament at Club Advantage Multi-Sports.

Pierce, the No. 1 seed, defeated Lubomira Kurhajcova of Slovakia, 6-3, 6-3, Friday. *AP*

All systems go for dancefest

EVERYTHING is set for the first ever Manila IDSF (International Dance Sport Federation) Open-Pagoda Philippines Cup and the seventh National Dancesport Championship-Alaxan FR Cup next weekend at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

According to DSCP president and founder Becky Garcia, all member-countries of the international federation have been invited to take part in this year's biggest IDSF Open-Pagoda Cup on Sunday, Nov. 9, for both the Latin and Standard disciplines in the amateur, youth and junior divisions. The world-renowned Brasil Tropical Carnival from Brazil, which is now on an Asian tour, will also strut its stuff during the blue-ribbon affair.

On the other hand, the national championships-Alaxan FR Cup will be held on Friday, Nov. 7, with four-time undefeated world professional Latin champions Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutari displaying their wares, aside from conducting private lessons and adjudicating during the championships.

Both events are sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Alaxan FR, Pagoda Philippines, makers of Family Rubbing Alcohol, Water Zone, Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Savannah Moon, Dance Exchange, ABC 5, Sweet Blooms, Colgate-Palmolive Philippines and Philippine Star.

Now on its seventh year, the current DSCP officers are lawyer Noel Laman, chair Becky Garcia, president; Jun Herrera, vice president; lawyer Josefina Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer; and board directors Marvie Cojuangco-Yulo, Chona Mercado, Ruby Co, lawyer Andresito Fornier, Edward Hayco, Antonio Lagdameo, Emma Nieto, Gen. Manuel Yan, Joel Ocsena and Naomi Enriquez.

For ticket inquiries, call Ruby at 752-0435/36 or visit the DSCP office at the 26th floor of Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Only in the Inquirer

THANKS to Wind Blown, local horseracing is alive again.

Hurt left and right by ugly incidents such as the gun-pointing, err, cell-phone pointing involving a horseowner and a jockey, questionable importation of horses and press con snub by the Philracom among others, the sport of kings literally rose back from the grave when Wind Blown made his triumphant return at the Santa Ana Park a week ago.

No, the *bayang karerista* did not go there because of the day's main race but simply to watch "The King" of Philippine racing flex his muscles again after a six-month hiatus.

And he did not disappoint.

Flashing the long, powerful strides that powered him to numerous major victories and back-to-back Horse of the Year trophies, Wind Blown walloped the field in the 11th race, sending thousands of his fans in jubilation and into shouts of "Wind Blown, Wind Blown, Wind Blown *pa rin!*"

My Silip Boy said he has not seen that multitude troop to the Makati race venue since Hermie Esguerra's prized galloper lost in the First Gentleman's Silver Cup last April.

"*Iba talaga si* Wind Blown, sir. *Mahal na mahal ng bayang karerista,*" my SB said. "For the past six months or so, *parang* dull *na* dull *ang mga karera pero parang binuhay uli ni* Wind Blown."

As Esguerra declared, Wind Blown is definitely back.

On Nov. 9, the 7-year-old son of Hazm and Wind in My Hair is joining the 4th Philtobo-Mitra Cup Classic in what is expected to be another blockbuster of a race, also at Santa Ana.

In the said event, highlight of the Philtobo-organized, five-day racing spectacle starting on Nov. 4, Wind Blown is facing five other rivals, the most notable of which is his 2002 Presidential Gold Cup tormentor, Free Wind.

Win or lose, we heard the Nestor Manalang-conditioned galloper will still be entered in the coming Marho Breeders' Cup on Nov. 23, and then probably run his farewell race in the Presidential Gold Cup in December.

And yes, there may be some plans to pit Wind Blown against the up-and-coming import Midnight Lady in what could yet be another explosive matchup this year.

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

With only seven days to go, excitement is already high regarding Wind Blown's participation in the Mitra Cup Classic which could very well be dubbed as "The Battle of the Winds Part 3."

By the way, only the INQUIRER came out with the story last Monday regarding Wind Blown's triumphant comeback.

As usual, we scooped the opposition again!

***

The drawing of lots for the 4th Philtobo-Mitra Cup will be held tomorrow (Nov. 3) at the Ahoy There Restaurant along Timog Avenue, QC.

Let's see if the Philracom people won't show up again.

***

I'd like to thank my colleagues who elected me to head the newly formed Writers of Horseracing in the Philippines, or WHIP for short.

I'm really honored to lead this group which will have Ceferino "Howie" Basilio and Andy Sevilla of WCPI as internal and external vice presidents, respectively; Jenny Ortuoste (Pro-Ads) as secretary, Orlando "Galman" Primo (Tumbok) as treasurer, Dennis Iñigo (Balita) as auditor, Jonathan Balani (Bulgar) as PRO and Per Taboy (Imbestigador) as sgt.-at-arms. Among our directors are Manolo "Clean Living" Iñigo, Edd "Ka Edong" Detubio, Vince Trinidad and Johnny "Silip" Decena.

The group was formed at Santa Ana last Sunday, the same day Howie, who Galman said turned 'ty-three last Oct. 30, held his advance birthday bash.

Fondly called "Cifring" by Rey Lachica and "Enteng" by former Chroniclemates Musong Castillo and Jong Arcano, Howie has a fledgling racing column in the Bulletin called "Diskarte." I suggest that you read it, too.

Cheers to the WHIP, cheers to *pareng* Howie!

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com

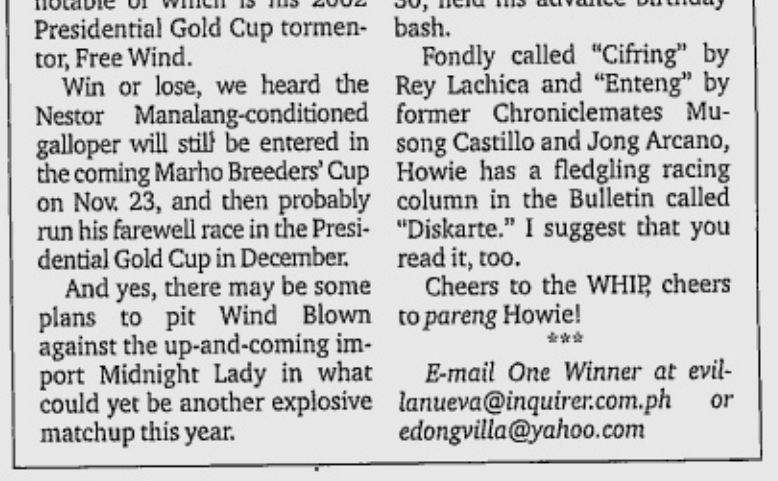
'Ballet' seeks revenge

MULTITITLED filly Golden Ballet aims to get back at Material Maker when they clash anew in the Sampaguita Stakes this afternoon at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Golden Ballet lost to Material Maker in the recent Golden Girl Stakes but is expected to go up as the slight pick in the 1,900-meter, all-distaff contest.

Eight other fillies and mares are joining the event with a top prize of P600,000 courtesy of the Philippine Racing Commission.

Also participating are sprinter Hazmoore, Bulakeña, Dandansoy, Mica's Magic, Namaste, Serena, Successful Dream and Windlass.



WINNER'S TROPHY
Prominent horseowner Hermie Esguerra (right) shows the winner's trophy to the crowd after his champion galloper, Wind Blown, made a triumphant return in the Saddle and Clubs Special Race last Sunday at the Santa Ana Park. Looking on is Exequiel Robles, president of the sponsoring Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Corp. JESS YUSON

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Parrot Moe 2. Perisan Slew 3. He's So Lucky 4. Music Quest
Race 2—1. Society Girl 2. Run Dopding Fly 3. Sir Olizon 4. Lady Be Gold 5. Santa Fe
Race 3—1. Roulette Queen 2. Precious Time 3. Very Sharp
Race 4—1. Terrific/Dampl 2. Harry's Up 3. Kay Rufina
Race 5—1. Speed O War 2. Bronte 3. Desert Deb 4. Ponchito
Race 6—1. Kayang Kaya 2. Cosanne 3. Union Square 4. District Three
Race 7—1. Zero Gravity 2. Aminin 3. Power Dance 4. Top Bullet 5. Arch Rival
Race 8—1. Golden Ballet 2. Material Maker 3. Windlass 4. Mica's Magic 5. Bulakeña
Race 9—1. High Octane 2. Earl Gray 3. Calvin's Magic
Race 10—1. Kitana 2. Golden Tale 3. Kumbawa 4. Make Sure 5. Say It's True
Race 11—1. Field Master 2. Of Note 3. Rapid Strike
Race 12—1. Hurricane Doding 2. Kumpirmado 3. Awesome Power 4. Queen of Gaia
Race 13—1. Sovereign Dancer 2. Party Goer 3. Divine Right 4. Better Harry 5. Wily Waw 6. Master Strategist

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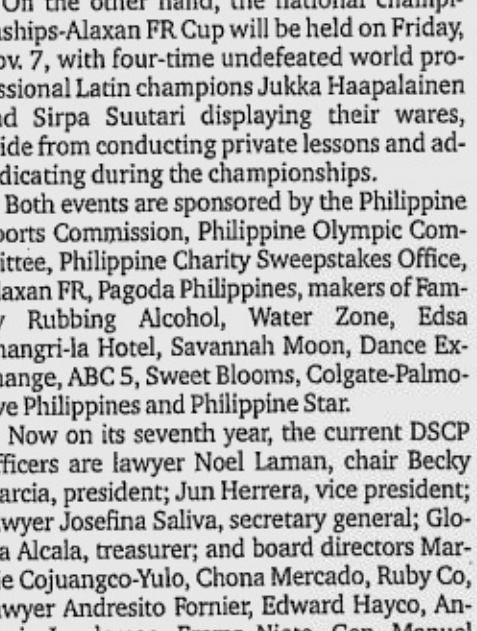
Wonders" Philippines program, Carrion said the Sports Tourism Adventure Travel Show has coined its own WOW called the "Wealth of Wellness" for the campaign sponsored by Visa.

The launching of the tourism drive, she added, will usher in over three weeks of sports events and activities that is expected to attract not only local but also foreign tourists at the Clamshell 2.

Highlight of the opening rites will be a badminton exhibition pitting celebrities from government, sports and show business, among them Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, POC president Celso Dayrit, sports show host Dyan Castillejo and actress January "Lumen" Isaac.

"We will also have other fun events like WOW Putt Challenge in an indoor miniature golf course with the cast of Nuts Entertainment matched against the national athletes, a Billiard Challenge of PN vice admiral Ernesto de Leon and Visa manager Anton Romulo, a wallclimbing clinic and contests, darts and a sportsaerobics marathon, a two-day badminton showdown open to the public over the next 24 days after Nov. 7," said events coordinator Malou Cantancio of the PSC-PCVC.

On top of the sports activities, Gerry Panga of PCVC said there will also be an exhibition of sports, leisure and recreation products to be set up in different booths around Clamshell 2 by companies like Toby's, Aqua Mundo and Club Panoly, Duty Free Philippines, Kabyawan Tours, Boating World, Accel Brooks, Kix Taekwondo, Dunlop and JB Sports.



CARRION

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SundaySPORTS

Wind Blown heads elite Philtobo-Mitra Cup cast

Midnight Lady, Don Paolo also joining Nov. 9 racefest

By Edwin Villanueva

NO LESS than the country's most famous racehorse, Wind Blown, is heading the star-studded cast competing in the fourth staging of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup Championships on Nov. 9 at the Santa Ana Park.

Joining Wind Blown in the elite roster of runners are the streaking import Midnight Lady, juvenile star Don Paolo, recent Triple Crown campaigner Success Story and an array of equally classy chargers seeking fame and glory in the annual racefest.

Fresh from winning his comeback race, Wind Blown struts his wares anew in the Classic which drew five other veteran campaigners, among them last year's Presidential Gold Cup winner Free Wind and 2001 Triple Crown titlist Silver Story.

Midnight Lady, currently on a two-race winning run, is seeing action in the Tanduay Imports Open where her stablemate, Absolute Charmer, is also listed.

Don Paolo, on the other hand, leads the 2-Year-Old Colts cast that attracted nine other promising juveniles.

Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr., president of the organizing Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo), said the Classic, Tanduay Imports Open and 2YO contests are three of the six main events set to be disputed aside from the Unilever, John Felix and Klub Don Juan Cup races on Nov. 9, climax of the prize-rich racing festival that will fire off on Nov. 4.

HIGH OCTANE: 3-Year-Old Colts entry PDI PHOTO

Also to be contested in the racefest backed by the Philippine Racing Commission, Philippine Racing Club, Tanduay, PCSO, Unilever Phils. and Disconnect Trading, are the 3-Year-Old Colts, 3-Year-Old Fillies and 2-Year-Old Fillies. Each featured race carries a total pot of P500,000.

Horseman's Cup winner Success Story is entered in the 3YO Colts where High Octane and Security Master loom as the top challengers. The 3YO Fillies field will be headed by Tatler Cover, Roadshow and Strong Lady, while recent Floirendo Cup first placer Concorde and another rising juvenile, Cat's Jewel, are among the 2YO Fillies contenders.

Philtobo vice president Francisco "Koko" Cayco said the drawing of post positions will be held starting at noon today (Nov. 3) at the Ahoy There Restaurant along Timog Avenue in Quezon City.

The declared entries:

2YO COLTS—Last Hazm, Shock and Awe, Nothing to Declare, Speed O War, Don Paolo, Flying Jordan, Batangas Force, Empire King, Sir Brendan Jean and Apex.

2YO FILLIES—Concorde, Sweet Talk, I Love This Game, Cat's Jewel, Little Girl, Cool Runnings, Formidable Ella and Rio.

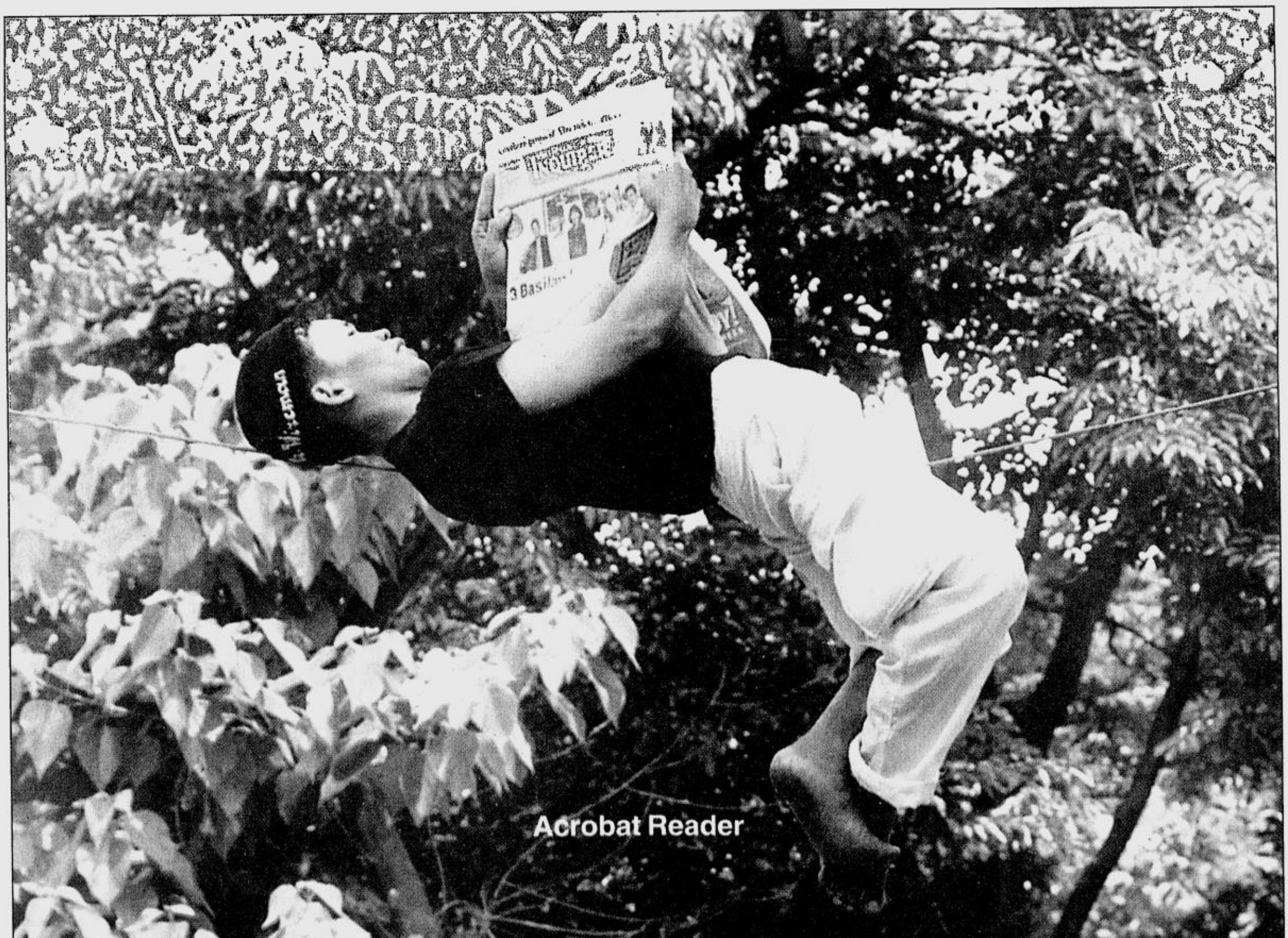
3YO COLTS—High Octane, Siete de Marso, Red Star Rising, Security Master and Success Story.

3YO FILLIES—Tatler Cover, War Hero, Crystal City, Roadshow and Strong Lady.

CLASSIC—Wind Blown, Perfect Storm, Lyonnais, Silver Story, Free Wind and Hyperbid.

IMPORTS—Tiger Babes, Ouzo, Neat Laurel, Crystal Show, Absolute Charmer, Midnight Lady, Catwalk Pia, Jade Louise, Audrey's Savings and Cosanne.

WIND Blown will have star jockey Jeffril Zarate as partner again in the 4th Philtobo-Mitra Cup Classic.



For the past 9 years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has topped the Asia Research Organization Readership Survey as the No.1 broadsheet in the country. This year, we've done it again, thanks to the faith of our readers, advertisers, dealers, and partners who remain confident in our commitment to public service. We're glad that whatever your reading style, you have made us a part of your life.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Editor Aries Espinosa

Third edition of 'Journalism for Filipinos' now off the press

THE THIRD edition of Journalism for Filipinos', the most comprehensive and up-to-date book on journalism by Alito Malinao, is now off the press, the National Books Store announced.

The book, which was first published in 1991, has already undergone 11 printing. It is being used as textbook and reference material by most schools and colleges offering mass communication and journalism courses. Copies are now available in all National Book Store outlets.

Aside from the basic theories and techniques on new writing, editing, headline writing, interviewing, newspaper design, the book has chapters on the Internet, computer encoding and editing, Adobe Pagemaker and Desktop Publishing.

Chapters on history of the Philippine press, libel and press freedom, investigative journalism, economic reporting, newspaper style, newspaper management and production, advertising and broadcast journalism can also be found in the book.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople, who wrote the foreword of the third edition of the book, said that "with its lucid language and well-ordered exposition of ideas, Journalism for Filipinos can be used both as a classroom textbook or as a tool for one's self-education."

Dr. Benjamin Tayabas, president of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, said "only a working journalist and professor like Alito Malinao can write a book on journalism that can be used as a textbook and reference material for Masscom students and practitioners alike."

Tayabas said that Malinao has been teaching journalism subjects at the PLM since 1993. "Malinao's Journalism for Filipinos is truly for Filipino students," Tayabas said.

Former National Press club president Louie Logarta said that Malinao, being a veteran newsman and "steeped in the rigid discipline of the profession as a reporter, deskman and editor," is highly qualified to write a book on journalism.

Malinao, now managing editor of the Presidential News Desk in Malacañang and former news editor of the Manila Standard, has been a journalist and an educator for more than three decades. He was a former diplomatic reporter, deskman and executive editor of the state-owned Philippine News Agency.

DOLE, AD FOUNDATION PROJECT WINS DIWA

Image Dimensions Inc, the advertising agency-co-operator of the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines for its assistance communications projects to the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole), presented the Creative Guild of the Philippines' Diwa trophy to Ad Foundation officials recently garnered by the "Dole: Bilib sa Manggagawang Pinoy" TV campaign. Witnessing the presentation are (from left): Luis Morales, chairman of the board of Image Dimensions Inc; Dodie Lucas, foundation treasurer and managing director of RoadRunner Network Inc; Mila Llorin, foundation vice chair and vice president of Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils; Antonio Samson, foundation chair of the board and president of PLDT's MediaQuest; Jojo Peña, vice president of Image Dimensions and Dole project director; Johnip Cua, foundation board secretary and president of Procter & Gamble Phils; Linda Gamboa, foundation assistant board secretary and executive director; Jimmy Alanis, foundation ways and means - golf chair and senior vice president for marketing of GMA Network; and Vic de Echo of RPN-9 Marketing, representing Cerge Remonde, foundation comptroller and RPN-9 chair.

DELIVERING SIGHT WORLDWIDE

FedEx country manager Samuel David (right), welcomes guests onboard the world's first and only 'Flying Eye Hospital'. FedEx and Orbis launched its 'Delivering Sight Worldwide' campaign in the Philippines with a medical symposium for eye doctors held recently in Subic Bay. Standing beside David is Valerie Suberg, a FedEx employee who flies Orbis as a full-time flight mechanic.

Ceso launches Business Advisory Project part II

SMALL and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Visayas and Mindanao are enjoined to avail of the expert assistance and consultancy services being offered by Volunteer Advisers from the Canadian Executive Service Organization (Ceso) under its 2nd Philippine Business Advisory Project.

This Ceso project, funded and supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (Cida), is designed to increase the operating effectiveness and efficiency of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to help them become more competitive and responsive to business opportunities either through expansion of operations or production capacity; upgrading quality control and product design to manufacture better products; and to enhance production efficiency at the plant, farm site, or factory to keep costs competitive.

SMEs with potential to export their products or who are already exporting are advised to tap these business advisory services since export marketing assistance could be extended particularly for those with potentials to export their products in the Canadian market.

Current industry sectors that are being targeted for assistance are: agri-business which includes food processing, fish culture, and high value crops; gifts, toys and house wares; small manufacturing which includes jewelry making, metal manufacturing and fabrication; furniture; and tourism among others.

Ceso BAP II operates out of Davao and Cebu cities.

For inquiries, interested SMEs are requested to get in touch with Ceso BAP II in Davao City at: (082) 222-6640, (082) 227-6140 to 41; fax number (082) 222-6578; cellphone no. (0919) 229-9777 and email address: cesobap@info.com.ph and in Cebu City at: (032) 254-8053; fax no. (032) 254-8053; cellphone no. (0917)-2662; and email addres: timceso@info.com.ph.

ELECTROLUX JOINS PANA

Electrolux Philippines Inc, after just a year of stay in the country, is now a proud member of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers. Photo shows the induction of the company as a new Pana member, represented by Malu Estaris (6th from right), Electrolux marketing manager, and Roe Quiambao (5th from right), Electrolux Ad and Pr manager. Pana executive director Dr. Nonie Azarcon (leftmost) and Pana president Gigi Rodriguez formally inducted Electrolux Philippines together with the other new companies in their recent general membership meeting at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

AF-USA GIVES DONATION TO SAGIP

Director Vicky Garchitorena (right) of Ayala Foundation - USA (AF-USA) hands over a donation from the USA to executive director Marte Perez of Saklolo at Gabay ng Ina at Pamilya (Sagip - Muntinlupa). A memorandum of agreement formalized the arrangement wherein US donors can avail of tax deductions for their donations to Sagip via AF-USA.

'LAVANDERA KO' PREFERS SHELLANE

Shellane, the most trusted name in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), is now the exclusive supplier of 'Lavandera Ko', a full service laundromat chain operated by Laundromat Corp which offers services such as dry cleaning, washing and pressing. Shellane recently inked a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Laundromat Corp for the installation of a piped-in LPG system for its nationwide operation. Signing the agreement are (from left) Laundromatic Corp president Robert Juan, Pilipinas Shell LPG general manager Borhan Zainal, Laundromatic Corp executive vice president Christian Juan and Pilipinas Shell LPG domestic sales manager Tonito Gonzales. Lavandera Ko now has 51 outlets in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao.

ProductFILES

Equitable PCI Bank introduces Fastcard

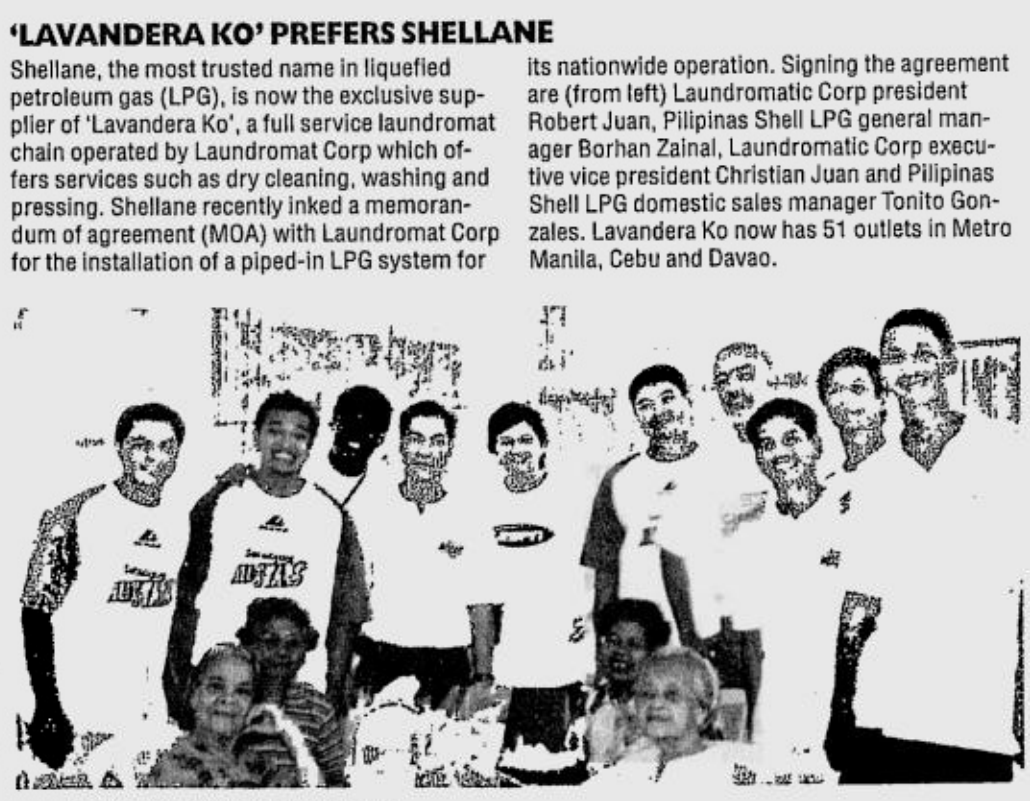
EQUITABLE PCI Bank's Fastcard is a prepaid Visa Electron card that makes fulfilling your obligations at home easier, lighter and more convenient.

With the Equitable PCI Bank Fastcard, you don't have to worry about always having cash on hand for your kids' school needs or even grocery needs. Your kids' Fastcard can receive money from you even at a short moment's notice.

It's so easy and affordable to avail of Fastcard. To get the card, all you need is P100 for the one-time processing and another P100 as the minimum load. There is no re-loading fee.

Another major advantage, with the Fastcard, you can easily purchase items in more than 20,000 Visa-affiliated establishments nationwide and in over 12 million worldwide, with electronic POS payment centers. When abroad, you also have access to over 750,000 ATMs worldwide - via the Cash Advance Option.

It's about time you get the whole family an Equitable PCI Fastcard and start living a worry-free life.



EARLY CHRISTMAS TREAT

Members of San Miguel Corporation's All-Stars bring early Christmas cheer to wards of St. Vincent's Home for the aged in Bacolod City as part of the touring basketball team's visit in the city that also included a similar visit to an orphanage, an exhibition game and a coaching clinic. Among the All-Stars who joined the Bacolod tour sponsored by Pure Foods Chicken Nuggets were PBA legends Mon Fernandez and Hector Calma, as well as Dondon Ampalayo, Tonichi Yturri, Nandy Garcia and Bobby Jose. Prominent sports media personality Bill Velasco (center) also joined the team as guest player.

IRRI UPGRADES SYSTEMS

The International Rice Research Institute (Irri) decided to increase efficiency in its internal operations by acquiring Microsoft Business Solutions for Human Resource and Payroll Management. Global Implementation Services Inc (GIS), one of the biggest Microsoft Business Solutions Certified Partner in the Philippines is providing the implementation services for Irri. Present during the contact signing were Ian Wallace, director for administration and human resources of Irri and Bo Lundqvist, vice president for sales and marketing of GIS.

ALI HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING RITES FOR THE RESIDENCES

Fr. Ramon Claro of the Sto. Nino de Paz Community Chapel in Greenbelt blesses the time capsule and the site of groundbreaking rites for The Residences at Greenbelt, a residential condominium project of the Ayala Land Inc. In photo, from left are ALI senior vice presidents Miriam Katigbak, Jimmy Ysmael, Tristan dela Rosa, Angel Lacson; Kate Ilagan, ALI senior division manager; architect Ted Narciso of GF and Partners; Licuanan; Emilio Tumbocon, ALI vice president; and Father Claro.

BTS Clips

DLSU-GSB tackles Davide issue

THE DE La Salle University Professional Schools Inc Graduate School of Business (DLSU PSI-GSB) discusses yet another timely and focal issue in a forum to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 4, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the DLSU PSI-GSB RCBC campus in Makati. Organized by the DLSU PSI-GSB Master of Business Administration-Juris Doctor (MBA-JD) dual degree program of DLSU and Far Eastern University Institute of Law (FEU-IL), the forum will focus on the business, legal and political implications of the impeachment case filed by members of the House of Representatives against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. for alleged misuse of the Judiciary Development Fund. The forum is open to all DLSU PSI-GSB students and the public.

Orocan's 20th anniversary promo

IF YOU have made Orocan a part of your lifestyle, you have the chance to win exciting prizes in Orocan's 20th anniversary promo. Just enclose any Orocan or Caha de Oro product label and a piece of paper with your name address, tel. no. and your signature in a white legal-sized envelope and mail it to Catalytyx Advertising Inc, Suite 5-C Silvercord Tower, S. Laurel St., Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. Entries should be received on or before Nov. 5 to make it to the first monthly draw. Closing date for the second draw is on Dec. 10. For the grand draw, deadline of entries is on Dec. 31. Entries which will not qualify for the first and and second monthly draws will still be included in the grand draw. Tune in to Eat Bulaga for the monthly draws on Nov. 7 and Dec. 12. Grand draw will be on Jan. 9, 2004.

Freight Logistics Summit

TOP GOVERNMENT officials and industry business executives will be speakers in the Freight Logistics Summit that will be held on Nov. 6 and 7 at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. The two-day conference will address the multi-dimension developments facing the different links in the supply chain, the evolving demands of the sector and the prerequisites to achieving global competitiveness. Interested parties can coordinated with MPI at Suite 202, Veca Bldg., Chino Roces Ave./Estrella St., Makati City, tel. no. 895-5735/895-2392, fax 890-7532; meetings@philonline.com.

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6 UNDERWORLD
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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8 IDENTITY

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3 PILYA
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN

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3 UPTOWN GIRLS 12:05MF,2:15,4:20, 6:30,9:00LMF-10:40END
4 THE PHONE 12:05MF,2:15,4:20, 6:30,9:00LMF-10:40END
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE 11:50MF,2:20,4:50, 7:20,9:50LMF-11:45END
6 IDENTITY 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
7 MAPUPULANG LABI 10:30,12:45, 3:00, 5:15,7:30,9:55,11:45
8 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING 11:00,1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50 11:30
9 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10,1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00,11:45
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4 THE PHONE 11:05MF,12:55,2:45,4:35,6:25,8:15,10:00LMF,11:40END
5 MAPUPULANG LABI 10:30, 12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:45 11:20
6 IDENTITY 11:15,1:20,3:25,5:30,7:35,9:40, 11:10
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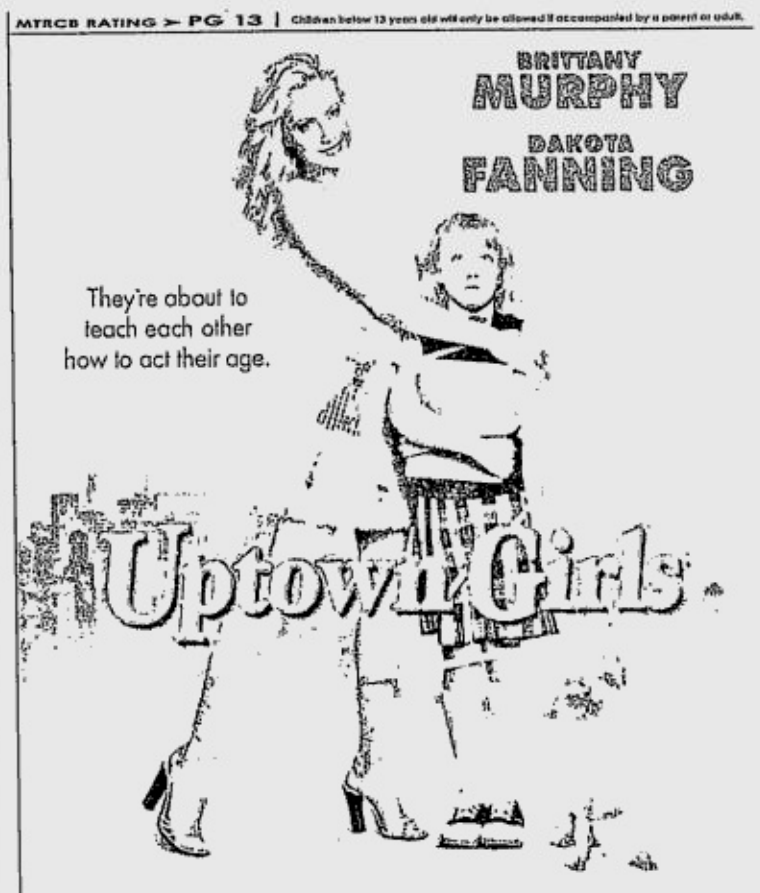

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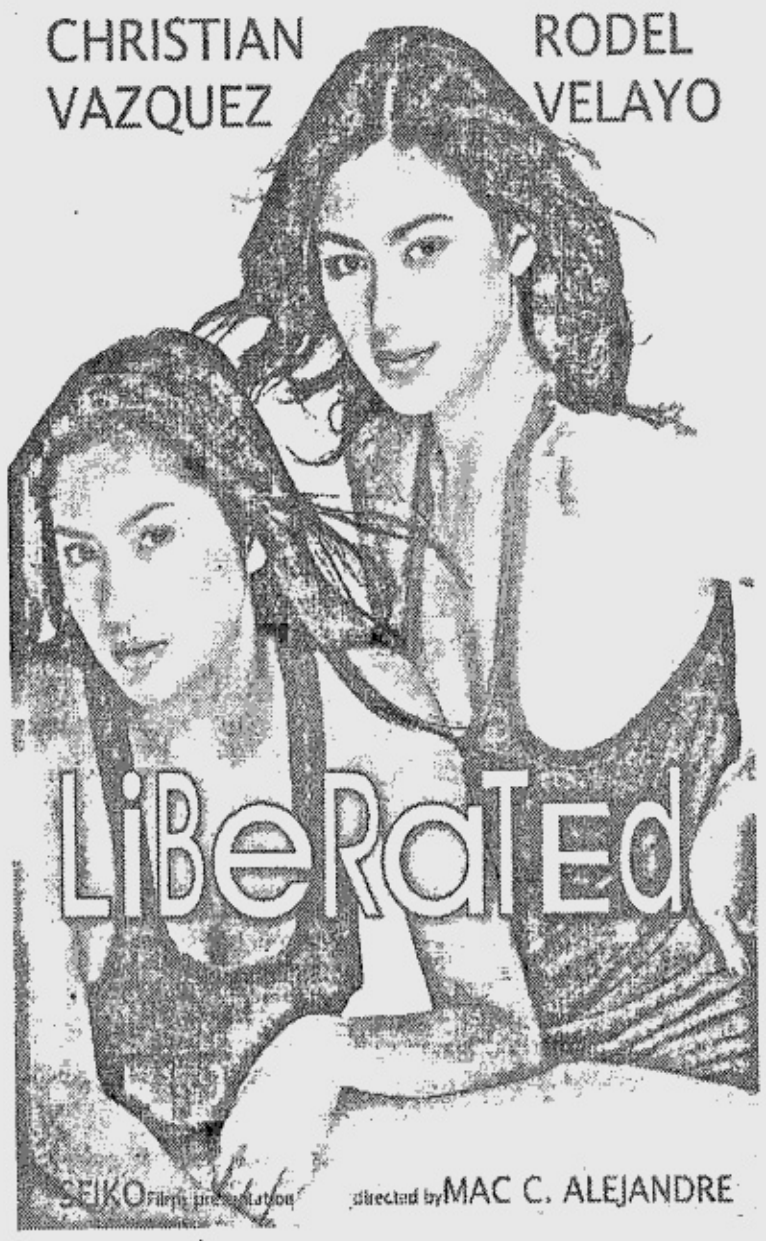

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Son talks about rebuilding dad's empire

By Martin Andanar
Contributor

THE VILLAR family nearly lost everything they had in the 1997 Asian crisis. The crisis brought down the share price of their pioneering low cost real estate company, C&P, from P20 to P1 overnight. Several properties in the country and abroad had to be sold to cover unpaid loans. The Villar owned Capitol Bank also had to go. The first Filipino tycoon was no longer one.

Mark Aguilar-Villar, the second of the three Villar children, was only 17 years old then and finishing his senior year at a boarding school in New Jersey. "The only time I got worried about my father was in 1997. We almost lost everything we had. I have not seen my dad that down."

Too far and too young to do anything, Mark, his older brother Paolo who was then a freshman at the Wharton Business School, could only pray for the best. Youngest sister Camille was left in Manila. Though worried, they were not afraid. They had faith in their parents who made their fortune out of sand and gravel hauling.

The Villar family did recover. The fact that the head, now Sen. Manuel Villar, was a politician helped a lot in pulling out the empire from its financial rut.

They were able to get refinancing. Their flagship became the malls, now called M-Star. These used to be the Manuela malls. But when the construction of Manuela's Metropolis Mall in Alabang met financial woes, the malls went to the Villars.

The Manuela group had borrowed from the Capitol Bank when it was owned by Villar. The collaterals used for the loan were the malls.

The Manuela group used to be owned by the family of Sen. Villar's wife, now Rep. Cynthia Aguilar-Villar.

When the Villars acquired the malls, they renamed this to M-Star Malls.

One year after the Asian Crisis, their old man, Manuel, became Speaker of the House of Representatives. Three years after he was elected senator of the republic and his wife, Cynthia, elected congresswoman of Las Piñas City.

MARK admires his father, Sen. Manuel Villar for being visionary.

Second generation

Mark finished his boarding school and proceeded to study Finance Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. Today, at 25, he runs four family owned M-Star Malls, coffee shops, sports bars, a comedy bar, a karaoke bar, a bakery franchise, fitness gyms and very soon, a construction and hardware supplies retail store. He talks about his family, his life and doing business the Villar way.

Mark is in charge of business development. "Anytime we open up any new business we have a group that takes care of that—I'm the one who helps out. Now we're into gyms, restaurants, bars and construction supplies unlike before where our only main business was only low cost housing development. We want to operate commercially also that's why we have malls which are my mom's project. Basically we all help out.

Although the real estate crisis hit the Villar empire hard, they realized they needed to diversify their market. While previously focusing on low-cost housing, they expanded to serve the middle to upper sectors.

Paolo is in charge of the real estate business.

Visionary

Mark admits that it is his father who is the visionary while his mom is the implementor.

"My dad is a dreamer. My mom is practical. They really complement. She is very meticulous. She is very good, firm and strict. My mom's style is more concerned on the details and my dad's the vision. They say I am more like my dad because both of us are lenient and are risk-takers. My brother Paolo is more like my mom—analytical, cautious and conservative."

But dinner talk is diverse. "Most of the time, we talk about business, politics and my dads fashion. My sister Camille is my dad's fashion designer. She tells him to look good and sport a George Clooney hair. His shoes are even more preppy than mine. My dad is not the type of dad that would talk about basketball and fishing. But he's genuinely a nice person."

Mark says the senator does not get angry easily and claims he does not womanize. "He doesn't get mad a lot. He's a good man and never womanizes. He goes out with my mom or my sister only. There was one time when he got linked to my sister because they were seen holding hands in a mall. My dad didn't even know Ruffa Mae Quinto when we heard about the chismis. *Sana ako na lang ang nalink* (laughter)."

AT 25, Mark Villar runs four family owned M-Star malls.

New ideas

Although he says his parents are not always open to new business ideas, they listen to the justification and if he can prove that it will be viable, they give in.

"There is slight resistance from my parents when it comes to new ideas. But in the end if I can justify it they give in. It's business eh. *Ganyan talaga!* The good thing about our set up is we have our own departments because sometimes it's hard to report to your parents all the time. In terms of information technology, my brother takes care of it."

According to Mark, his parents do not give them all they want. "Not like some rich people where they give their children millions. They're not like that."

"Personally I don't like taking money from my parents anyway. I want to make my own. If I didn't earn it I don't want it." he adds.

Non-politician

Although both parents are in politics, Mark says "I'd rather go to a business meeting rather than a political one. I don't want to be known as a politician."

He does make a comment on local politics. "I think we need a businessman to run the country. Just look at Thailand and how Thaksin is running it. It's sad because I went to a hardware fare in the US recently and all the products that I saw there were either made in China, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia. The only Asian country missing was the Philippines."

And though he studied in the US for high school in college, he says he does not really use the knowledge he acquired. "Frankly I don't apply what I learned from the states. It's the discipline of learning that's important I think. Economics is all theories. You don't really use it. A lot of it is all commonsense and managing people. Business is simply addition and subtraction."

But he admits that the best way of doing business is "Just like what dad always says, *sipag at tiyaga.*"

National brand merges into Panasonic

MATSUSHITA Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (MEI) of Japan, has announced the unification of its two brands, National and Panasonic into one name- Panasonic. The move for consolidation comes from the strong need of MEI to align brand communication efforts into one brand name, Panasonic, which already covers over 90 percent of sales outside Japan and is enjoying a successful brand recognition in the U.S. and Europe.

With this new alignment, the brand name for all home appliance products in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and China, with the exception of Japan where the brand "National" originated, will be changed from "National" to "Panasonic."

Following this worldwide unification, Panasonic goes full blast with its new brand campaign underlined by the slogan, "Ideas for Life."

A continuation of its Customer first tradition, "Ideas for Life" defines Panasonic's new breed of technology that is innovative and yet close to basic human needs. This worldwide commitment to discover technological ideas from the most relevant needs and desires of consumers is embraced by the entire Panasonic workforce, from the R&D and manufacturing, marketing and sales; down to the products and services suppliers.

As one of the leading manufacturers in the industry, Panasonic's newest brand platform is foreseen to advance its contribution to the country's development and progress via job generation, foreign exchange earnings, countryside and support industries development, and pro-environment principles.

As an opening salvo, Panasonic will launch these top-of-the-line appliances by November 2003.

The flagship products in the appliance line include: The new Panasonic CS/U-XC9CKQ Split-Type Air Conditioner generates pure oxygen and doubles as an air purifier. This great new technology is attributed to the unique O2-Shower feature that sifts the oxygen in the room, to give back only the purest air. It also has a one-of-a-kind super ionizer that generates 20,000/cc of negative ions, to create a balanced, stress-free environment. Even the unseen viruses in the air are deactivated via its Catechin filter made of Green Tea leaf. Another unique appliance is the new Panasonic washing machine that helps whiten clothes. Dubbed as the Panasonic Bubble Washer, (NA-F80GD) its incredible feature is the Micro Foam System that creates a lather like foam to gently clean and whiten your wash. It also has a Dryer Function for a 100 percent dry and bacteria-free, hygienic clothes. The new Panasonic (MC-E8004) Double Dustbin Cyclone Cleaner on the other hand has a unique bagless system for easy disposal of dust. It also has a huge capacity of 3.4L, and a HEPA filter that removes 99.9 percent of particles and bacteria for a healthier exhaust. Not to be outdone is the Panasonic Refrigerator with Energy-saver that has been named as Japan's no. 1 energy-saving refrigerator. It is also the first in the industry to use a non-flon refrigerant, which has zero effect on the ozone and no global warming potential. Last on the flagship product is the new Panasonic NN-J993 Inverter Microwave Oven with Automatic Steam. This new product lets you cook easy and enjoy the great taste of food. This is made possible by the steam function that wraps food in moisture to keep it juicy, and prevents food splashes so you can microwave even without micro wraps. It's also the first home-use microwave oven with no turntable, maximizing oven space. It also has easy to clean features for hassle-free cleaning and maintenance.

To resolve the challenges of business and human life has always been a tough call for any electronics manufacturer. But Panasonic has clearly seen this through with these innovative products that not only make lives easier, but also contribute to a safer and healthier environment.

Under its mother company MEI, Panasonic in the Philippines will continue to create innovations that anticipate the needs of its customers, to deliver the promise of life-changing technology to the world.

Calibrate your leadership approach

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

"Leadership Through People Skills"
By Robert E. Lefton and Victor R. Buzzotta
McGraw-Hill, 2004

EXECUTIVE READ

THE SUBJECT on how to effectively lead people perplexes and fascinates managers, psychologists, sociologists and all others devoted to learning about motivation in the work place and mass movements in countries.

Early on, the distinction between Theory X and Theory Y sought to prescribe managerial approach getting the best out of people: one presupposes that people are basically irresponsible and lazy, while the other assumes that they are innately responsible and interested in turning in a good job. Based on your own assumptions, you will adopt your own approach to get the job done "through other people."

Other managerial leadership theorists suggest "different strokes for different folks," and leave to them what "strokes" to use. In graduate business school, we fine tuned the distinctions between a "task-oriented" and a "process-oriented" leader—and decided that too much task orientation makes you a slave driver, while being too process-focused gets you nowhere.

Last year, a book titled "Primal Leadership" made a distinction between "resonant" and "dissonant" leaders—the former addresses the heart with warm feelings to move people, the latter strikes fear and ends up being a "toxic" leader. Sounds familiar?

All three approaches have given us a choice between two extremes on a continuum. You slide from right to left, or vice versa, as you locate the right balance between the "positive" pole and the "negative" pole - and you find just the right spot by which to wield your leadership influence. With luck and instinct, you somehow succeed.

The good news is your choice of leadership styles is not confined to the "linear"—right to left, east to west and vice versa.

The book "Leadership Through People Skills" developed the "Dimensional Model of Behavior to Help Managers."

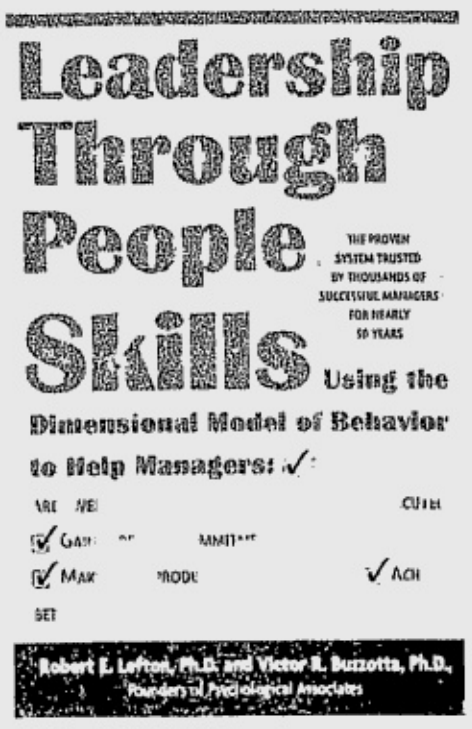
Don't be intimidated by this model because it looks like a quadrant. The authors, however, call it "dimensional" showing intersecting lines at right angles. The vertical dimension has "Dominance" on one end and "Submission" on the other. And then the horizontal dimension has "Hostility" on the left and "Warmth" on the right.

It is an interesting and workable model. But, first the authors define the types of "behavior". "Dominance" exercises control, is assertive, and fits a "take charge" leader. "Submission" follows the lead of other people (which reminds me of one's leadership quality: "Find out where your people are going, and then follow them there.")

"Hostility" is self-centered, unresponsive and skeptical about people's feelings or motives. "Warmth" is responsive and is optimistic about people's strivings and abilities.

The authors say you can combine the four behavior patterns to produce leadership strategies expressed in the following: Q1 for Dominant-Hostile (autocratic), Q2 for Submissive-Hostile (unassertive), Q3 for Submissive-Warm (easygoing) and Q4 for Dominant-Warm (collaborative). "This is the heart of the Dimensional Model," the authors point out.

This 233-page book uses the hardworking model to illustrate and test various leadership styles and strategies from the points of view of boss-subordinate, subordinate-boss and peer relationships. Addressed first to leaders, the book says: "The model serves as a diagnostic tool that helps you decide changing your behavior and working on a remedy."



Due to its diagnostic function, the manager is liberated from putting people in "neat, little boxes" or viewing people as stereotypes. The authors point out that the model can also help in forecasting behavior, but are quick to say that "it's not an infallible predictor." "No behavioral science-model can predict the complexities of human behavior with absolute certainty," they stress.

The book is a well-presented introduction to this Dimensional Model, and has an abundance of charts and tables to make it easy for the reader. With 16 chapters, the book covers the whole range of leadership styles, behavior mix, motivation, probing, coaching, and team-development programs. In short, it is your road map to becoming a leader whose strategies, while flexible, follow a tried and tested analytical structure. As you read along, you will note that the authors are endorsing the Q4 leadership behavior - Dominant-Warm, or collaborative.

The best leadership strategy cannot be summarized in a formula. Dealing with different people and with yourself as a leader is already a complex process. What this book does, though, is give you a higher confidence level that you have covered all the base—and the margin of error has been narrowed. You also have a flexible that makes you calibrate your initiatives up or down, left or right - and thus arrive at the "best approach."

Ultimately, however, you must trust your instincts. The book, after encouraging you to practice Q4, gives a one-liner that challenges you the reader: "From here on, it's all up to you." *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

Taipan's new mall highlights homegrown ventures

WHEN SM City Lucena recently opened its doors to the public, it not only brought SM's shopping leisure, and entertainment excitement to Quezon Province and the Southern Tagalog region, but also highlighted homegrown business possibilities.

The three level supermall, which totals 72,056 square meters in floor area, brings together a mix of Manila and locally based tenants, many of whom were present during its blessing. Among those who came in from Manila included: National Bookstore's Presentacion Ramos, Ricky Reyes Salon's Ricky Reyes, Penshoppe's Bernard Liu, Freeway's Sherry Gotauco, Mendrez' Liza Flor San Diego, Executive Optical's Maximo Uy, Onica Benito Tan, Timex's Nareshi Mirani, and Ideal Vision's Mary Chua.

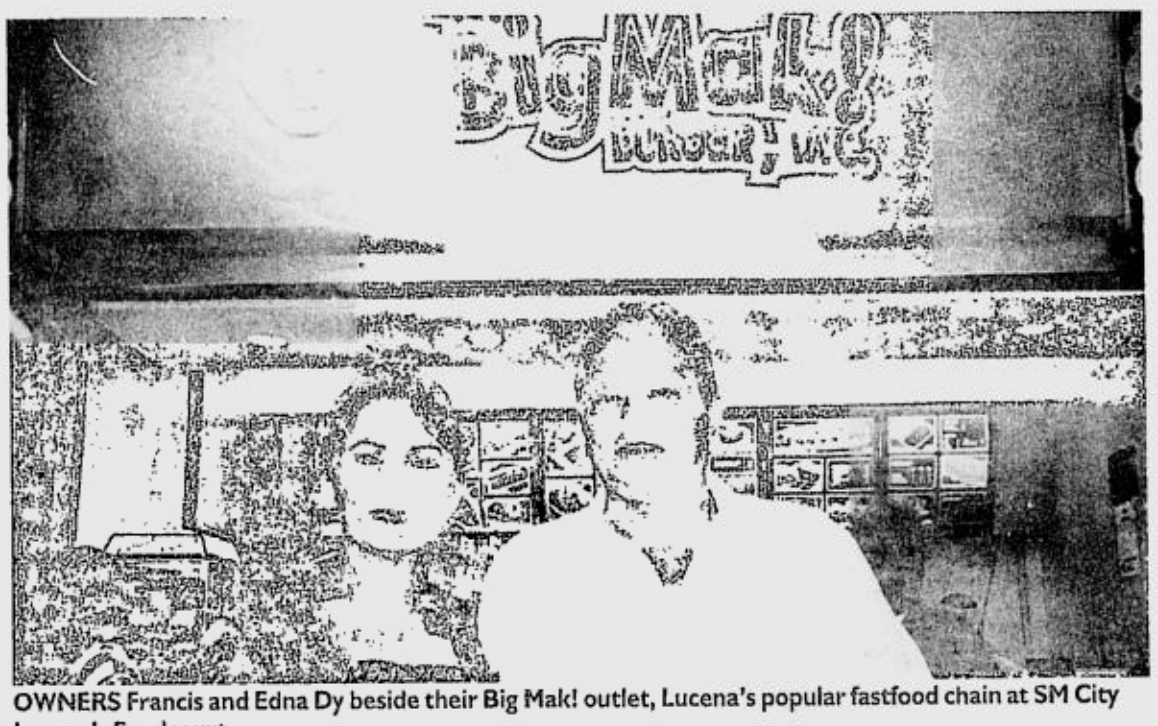
Restaurant owners from Manila likewise dropped by: Tokyo Tokyo's Ivan Ramos, Goldilock's Franklin Go, Chin's Express and Inihaw Express' Ricky and Beng Dee, and Kusina ni Gracia's Eddie and Grace Gobing.

One of the supermall's attractions, is the presence of some of Lucena's most popular food outlets—all under one roof. These include LC Big Mak Koffee Klatch, Happy We Dimsum, Bechan's House of Seafood, and Bosbarnn. Another popular resto, Buddy's Pizza, will also be opening in the mall.

On the heath service side, SM City Lucena also has two outlets: Redor Dental Center and Clinica Lucena. The Redor Dental Center is a diagnostic center that brings to th... Raymond Redor, who specializ... in Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, and Dr. Evelyn Redor's Cosmetic and Prostodentics Dentistry.

Clinica Lucena, on the other hand, is an ambulatory clinic that offers diagnostic (blood chemistry, mammograms, densitometer), as well as oby gynecology, pediatrics, and internal medicine. A group headed by Dr. Potenciano Andaman owns it.

When completed, SM City Lucena will have more than 160 stores, restaurants and amusement areas, combining SM mainstay anchors, international and Philippine store and restaurant chains, and as mentioned, homegrown tenants.



OWNERS Francis and Edna Dy beside their Big Mak! outlet, Lucena's popular fastfood chain at SM City Lucena's Foodcourt

LUCENA'S very own Koffee Klatch and owners Antonio and Milada Valde at SM City Lucena

BLUE Magic's Martin Limgenco and store manager Jorge Degamo

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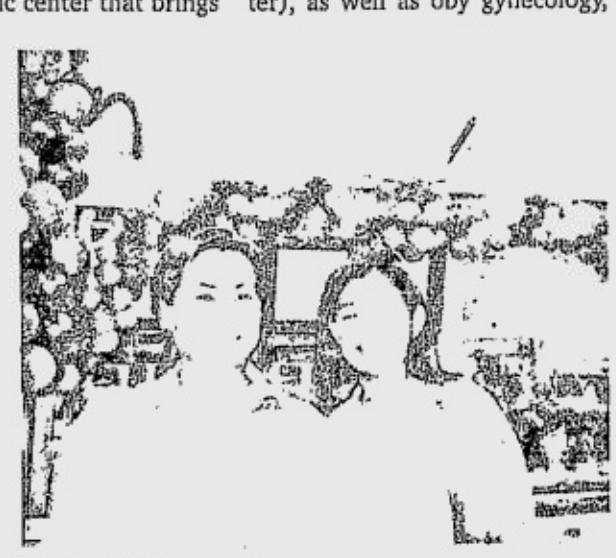

HAPPY We's Donna Chua

BETCHAN'S Lilibeth Par

New card, new look

PEOPLE so used to the usual look of a credit card that hardly anyone gives much thought to it except when using it. Now, along comes a new credit card that comes in a completely offbeat design—and it's so innovative looking that Bank of the Philippine Islands has explicitly named it the BPI Edge card.

This new card stands out with its eye-catching translucent plastic design and distinctive rounded lower right corner—a first not just for BPI but for the credit card industry in the country. The design is a trademark of MasterCard International, a leading global payments brand, and it's already being used in several countries around the Asia/Pacific region.

This new credit card was recently launched. Ajay Bhalla, Senior Vice President and General Manager, South-East Asia, MasterCard International, flew in from Singapore to share with everyone the excellent reception of the new card design in other markets.

Welcoming Ajay were the senior executives from MasterCard Philippines, namely Jose Rene Villa-Real, vice president and Country Manager, Judith Dayrit, Director for Member Relations and Marketing; Anton Corro, Director for Operations and Member Relations; and Rochelle Leyba, Member Relations Representative.

BPI top executives came in full force to support the launch: Xavier Loinaz, president; Aurelio Montinola III, senior executive vice president; Teresita Tan, senior vice president and Head of Card Banking; Eddie Guba, vice president for Cards; Dada Trillo, senior vice president; Miriam Roxas, assistant vice president and Merchant Head; Nita Claravall, senior vice president for marketing; Gene Mercado, vice president for Credit Card Operations; Annie del Mundo, assistant vice president for Credit Cards; and Juancho Calayan and Anya Cajucom, manager and assistant manager for Marketing & Sales, respectively.

The launch event, which had a futuristic look and feel, was well attended by mostly younger set, and featured a fashion show by Rustan's U, dancers and a laser show.

Targeted predominantly at the younger customer segment, the BPI Edge MasterCard offers an affordable monthly membership fee, shopping discounts, exclusive invitation to sale events, movie ticket freebies, easy monthly installment plans for high-ticket purchases and many other features.

Available in vibrant color variants blue and silver, the new card gives fashionably hip individuals something daringly unconventional to flash whenever they shop, dine, watch movies, or do anything they fancy.

Applicants who also get approved for the BPI Edge MasterCard until Sept. 30, 2004 will get a special welcome voucher that gives away more freebies from select establishments. To entice the young crowd to sign up instantly, ladies holding Centrino laptops made the rounds that very evening, collecting data from those eager to begin flashing the new credit card.

Town bachelor transforms junk into ornaments

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TAYABAS, Quezon—The creative and imaginative juices of this bachelor from this sleepy town at the foot of the mystical Mt. Banahaw flow naturally and have been turning out surprising pieces of indigenous artistic interior design materials and ornamental handy crafts out of the combined discarded junks of the ritzy set and abundant resources inherent in the wilderness of Quezon province.

Cocoy Bernales, 36, who considers himself tied to his chosen craft, was born of a handicraft-making family in this old municipality founded in 578 by Franciscan missionaries.

Most of his childhood years were spent not in the fields of lazy boyhood plays and games but in the workplace of weaving buri hats and native fans, among many other native products, inside their house in the town's riverside district that also serve as part bodega for finished items and raw materials.

"Handicraft making is a family business. I was born and raised to do my part of the trade, mostly in the creation aspect of new designs. Most often, I would find myself tinkering with new materials that my hands could lay on, which I would later use in the making of new products," Bernales reveals of his roots in the handicraft business.

He said they have already made almost all kinds of handicraft in Quezon.

On his own

When the family enterprise folded up due to the country's unstable economic situation, his friends were not surprised when he started another handicraft-related endeavor on his own and continued his penchant for transforming indigenous stuff into surprising art works.

The "pabitin"-style native chandelier made of forest twigs tied with hanging sliced bottle of Red wine serving as candle holders is a favorite choice among native art-craft lovers during the recent provincial agri-trade exhibit here.

Bernales says he uses the twigs of "bulong-Aeta" tree, which he buys from his sources in nearby Pagbilao town, as the main frame.

The twigs are tied to each other, similar to the fiesta "pabitin." But instead of candies and other goodies as hang-ons, he attaches the sliced upper portion of the red-colored bottle upside down, which he tied to the twigs-frame with bendable copper wire.

And to compose the final touch as an indigenous artistic design, Bernales simply adds scented colored candle inside the hanging bottles.

One hanging inside the office of Kabanahaw, an environmental protection group based here, is a native chandelier, which easily attracts attention from any looker, especially in an ambience littered with potpourri of indigenous stuffs amid the scent of sandalwood from lighted Chinese incense.

Bernales says the native chandelier is often made-to-order by customers because of the size requirement. The hanging bottle costs P35 each.

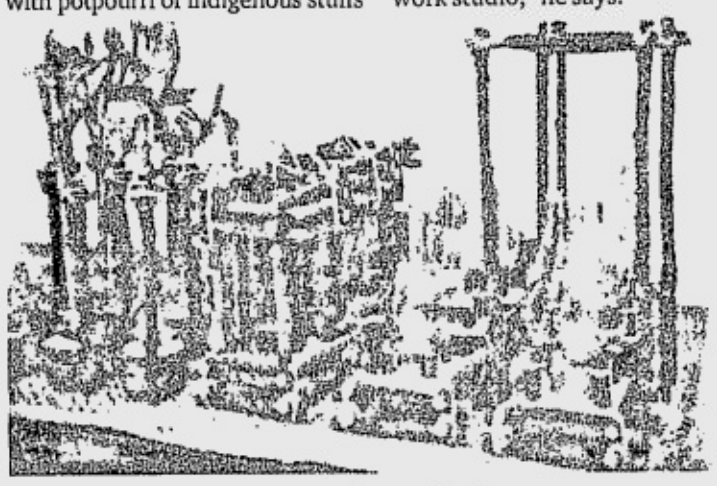
He says "bulong-Aeta" tree is also abundant in coconut farms in Tayabas. Once his supplier delivers the twigs in bundles, he has to pay the entire delivery, no matter what the form of the branch is.

"I'm not too particular with forms although most of them are straight just like what I need. But even if it's contoured, I could still use it in some designs," he says. He pays P2 per stick measuring 1.5 meters long.

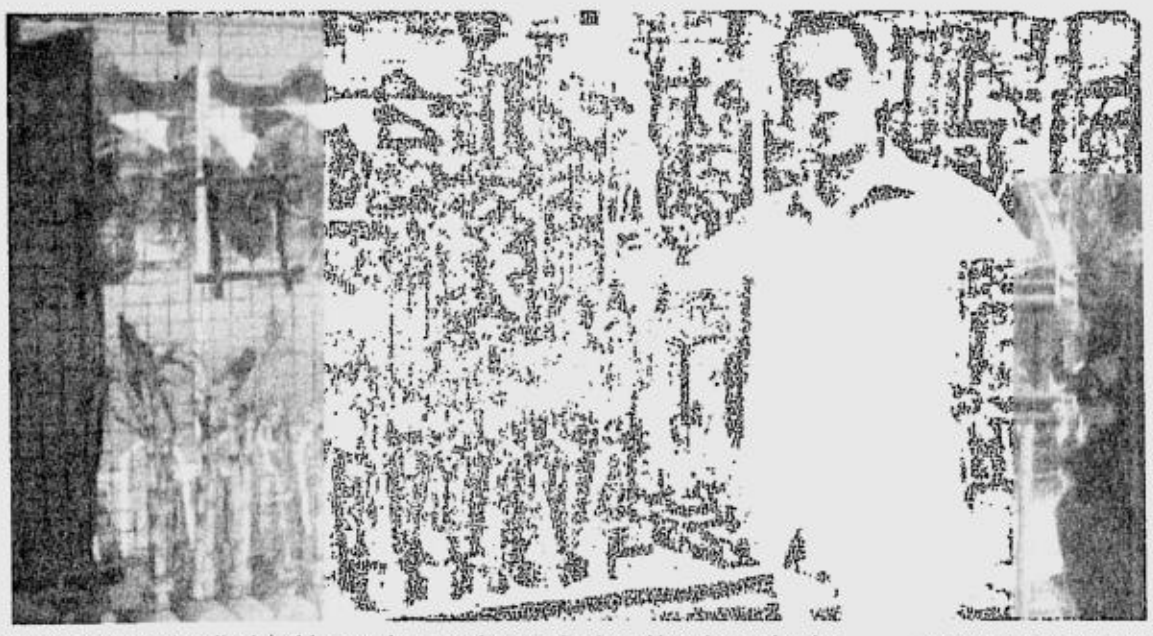
Junk

Bernales recalls how he picked up the idea of using the colored bottles as raw materials.

"I noticed that the neighborhood junk shop was not interested in the empty bottles. They were not buying it. When I closely examined the shape, texture, and the color of the bottle, that's it. In the corner of mind, I knew that it would offer lots of artistic potentials if further explored inside my work studio," he says.



DISCARDED bottles given new life as table lamps.



COCOY Bernales displays his creations made out of colored bottles and twigs. PHOTOS BY DELFIN MALLARI JR.

The following days, he scoured every trash can in the neighborhood in search of empty bottles of red wine and similar containers.

With the improvised glass cutter that he personally designed, he sliced the bottle in three parts: the base, body, and the upper portion for the "pabitin" chandelier.

The base or the floor of the bottle is reserved as accent pieces in garden landscape jobs that he also does as sideline.

The bottomless body of the bottle is used as the central focus of the table candle lamp, which is also fenced with "bulong-Aeta" branches.

The product costs P70 to P100 each, depending on the size.

Already adapted with the intricacies of glass as main accent, Bernales also placed special orders for "bullet shaped glass container," in his favorite glass factory in Manila, that he also used as hanging ornamental base for scented candle. He sells the product for P120.

He uses abaca roof to tie the hanging ornament, which he buys from Divisoria for P80 a kilo.

Test tubes

Bernales also finds ornamental usage for laboratory test tubes.

With the glass tube half-filed with water standing in a piece of soft wood as base, it only needs a couple of fresh fortune plants to pass on as a table flower vase.

"When there's an exhibit to attend, I order fresh fortune plants in Lucban. It's also a favorite among buyers," he discloses.

He says the Department of Trade and Industry always invites him to every provincial exhibit.

"I've already displayed my products in Mega Mall in Manila and a lot of people have shown interest," he proudly says.

Aside from hanging ornamental pieces, Bernales also makes wall decor from terra cota clay, which he imprinted with leaves of indigenous plants in the wilds.

But despite the popular reception on his products, Bernales admits that he still has to perfect his craft to penetrate the export market.

"For the meantime, I am satisfied with the volume of my local orders," he says, adding that most of the orders come from walk-in customers who bring their own concept design.

"But if I find out that it will be hard for me to perfect my customer's design, I suggest some modifications. Most often, the customer will just let me introduce whatever change I deem necessary to further improve the design," he says.

"Fortunately, most of them were satisfied with the finished product," he recalls with a grin.

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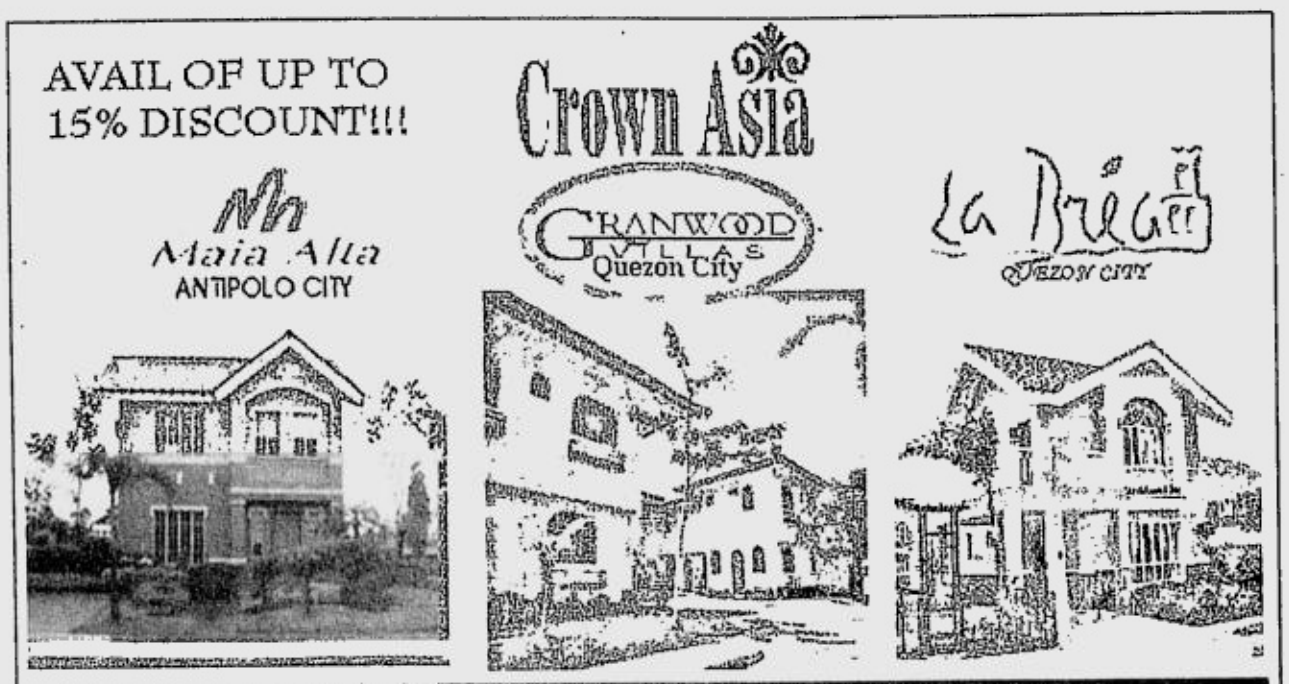

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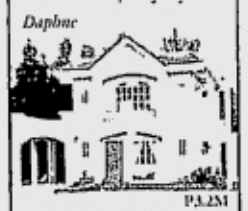
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRAINING 5271590

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late HONORATO C. RIZARDO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc 471, Page 95, Book XV-15, Series of 2003 before notary public Atty. Eddie N. Fernandez of Mandaluyong City.
(PDI - October 26, November 2, & 9 2003)

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Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS (INFRASTRUCTURE)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

Sealed bids for the furnishing of labor and materials for the **CONSTRUCTION OF POSTHARVEST HORTICULTURE TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTER (PHTRC) BUILDING EXTENSION (PHASE II), UPLB, COLLEGE, LAGUNA** will be received at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (OVCPD), Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna not later than 9:00 A.M., January 13, 2004, at which place, time and date said bids will be publicly opened

Interested bidders who wish to prequalify may obtain prequalification statement forms (PRE-C) at the Campus Planning and Development Office (CPDO), College, Laguna, from November 03, 2003 to November 14, 2003 and should submit the same not later than November 21, 2003 to the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna. It is mandatory that the contractor presents the original copy (with a photocopy) of the current PCAB Contractor's License with the Integrated Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors for Government Infrastructure Projects for authentication.

The application for eligibility is open to all local Filipino contractors who are registered, categorized and classified by PCAB as contractors for government infrastructure projects with Size Range (Category) and Kind of Project (Classification) as MEDIUM A-Building (Minimum Category)

Proposal forms and other related documents are available for issuance to qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED & 00/100 ONLY (P3,500.00)** per set of documents from December 08, 2003 to December 12, 2003 at the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna.

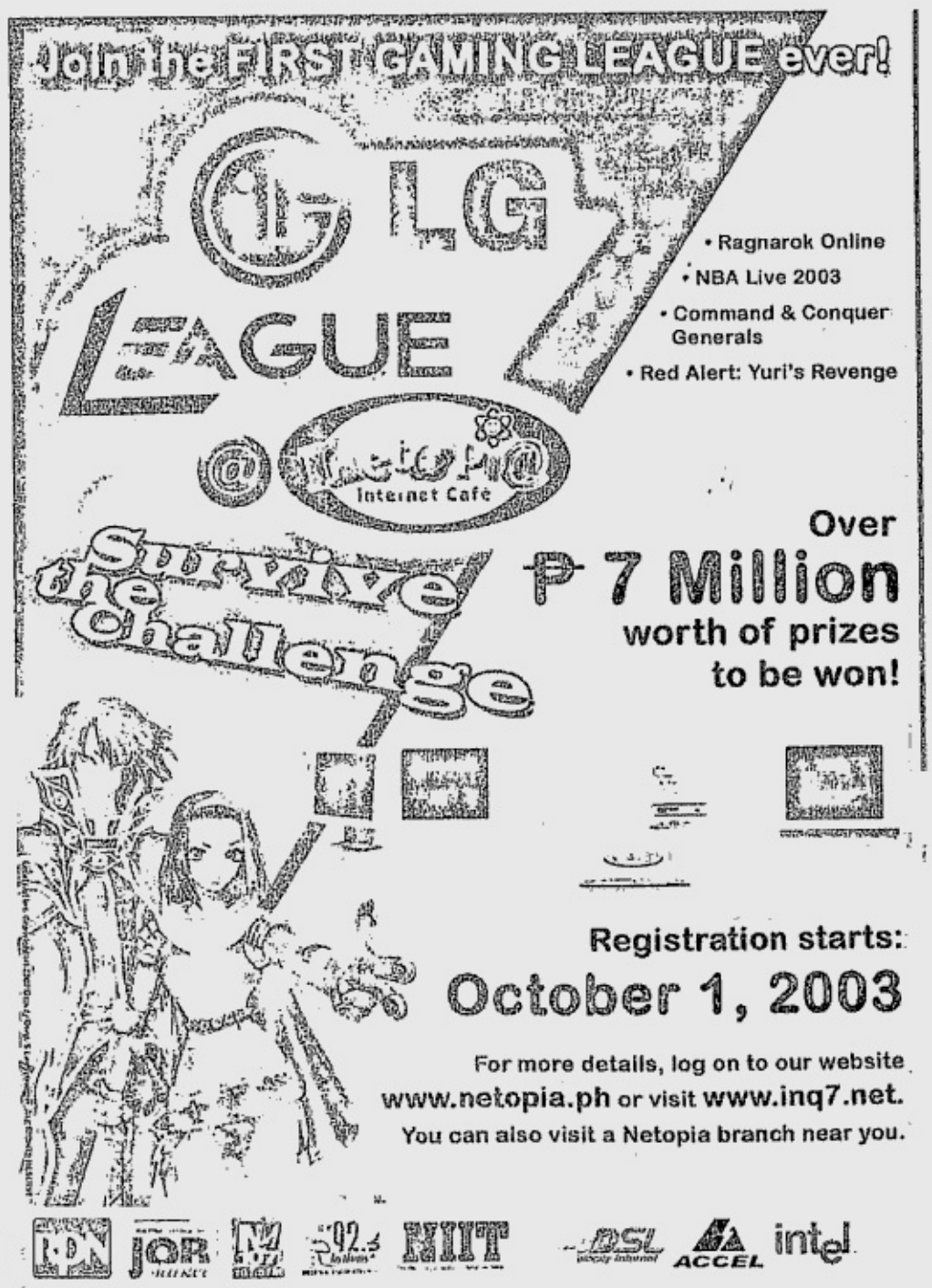
Site inspection will be conducted at 8:30 A.M. and pre-bidding conference will be held at 9:30 A.M. on December 16, 2003 at the OVCPD, Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna (The scheduled site inspection shall be strictly followed)

All particulars relative to procurement planning up to contract implementation and termination shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and other applicable rules and regulations

The U.P. Los Baños reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received and to accept such bids as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the University

(Sgd.) CASIANO S. ABRIGO, JR.
Vice Chancellor and Chair

(PDI–Nov. 2, 2003)



NFA conducts spot grains quality audit in procurement areas

THE National Food Authority conducts spot quality audit and inspection of palay it buys from farmers to enhance and support the agency's quality grains program.

Spot inspection of grains quality is being conducted in NFA buying stations where the farmers deliver their produce. These are being done by roving teams from the agency's Technology Resource Development Department which formulates quality standards for the NFA's palay and milled rice.

NFA administrator Arthur C. Yap said that having spot quality audit will ensure uniformity in grains classification and educate farmers on the agency's basis for palay grading and classification.

He also said this measure will minimize instances of palay misclassification and reduce variances in milling recovery. The NFA has set a minimum of 65 percent milling recovery for palay.

Aside from promoting grains quality, reducing milling recovery variance will also facilitate stock liquidation by NFA accountable officers, said Yap.

Pitching on quality, Yap also cited that the quality rice program should start from the time when the agency buys the farmers' palay until the grains reach the market in rice form.

The quality assessment teams have been provided grains classification guides as well as charts on grains quality specifications and their corresponding grades.

The quality inspection is being made in the presence of the farmers selling their produce to inform them how their palay are classified.

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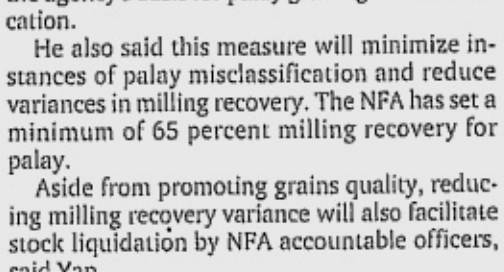

THE Philippine Internet Commerce Society (PICS) recently launched the 2nd National E-Commerce Congress & Exhibit, scheduled on Dec. 2-4, 2003 at the Philippine Trade Training Center. The SME IT Excellence Awards will recognize SMEs which have exemplified the full use of IT and E-Commerce in their business operations. Call for Nomination in this Award Category is on-going. Present during the launching are: (seated from L to R) Ernie G. Imperial, Chair of SME IT Excellence Awards, Mary Anne D. Tolentino, President of Philippine Internet Commerce Society, and Ruel S. Kapunan, Congress 2003 Chairman. For details, call 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6893, email: fiera@info.com.ph, visit website: http://www.pics.org.ph, http://ww.fmi.com.ph

Canadian Embassy
Manila

Ambassade du Canada
Manille

L'Ambassade du Canada à Manille,
suite à son déménagement à une nouvelle chancellerie,
annonce son changement d'adresse et de numéro de téléphone.
Ceux-ci seront en vigueur dès le 4 novembre.
L'Ambassade ne sera fermée que le vendredi 31 octobre et le lundi 3 novembre.

L'AMBASSADE DU CANADA À MANILLE EST SITUÉE AU:

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RCBC Plaza
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(Les frais d'appel sont de Php18.00 par minute.)

Pour de plus amples informations, consultez notre site web:
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Manila

Ambassade du Canada
Manille

The Canadian Embassy, Manila
announces its change of address and contact numbers
due to its move to its new chancery effective
04 November 2003.
The Embassy will ***only*** be closed on
Friday, October 31 and Monday, November 3.

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, MANILA IS LOCATED AT

Level 6, 7, and 8, Tower 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168

The public may contact the Embassy through
the new trunklines:
Tel: 857-90-01
Fax: 843-10-82

For visa application and immigration matters,
please contact the Call Centre:
1-909-1018888 (PLDT)
1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
1-900-1018888 (GLOBE)
(Call charges at Php18.00 per minute)

Comprehensive information on visa applications
may be obtained from our website: www.manila.gc.ca

For specific concerns, you may reach the following sections:

Section	Telephone	Fax
Immigration and Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
Management and Consular	857-90-01	843-10-82
Trade Commissioner Service	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Political, Economic Relations, and Public Affairs	857-90-13	843-10-78

Canadian Embassy
Manila

Ambassade du Canada
Manille

Ang Pasuguan ng Canada sa Maynila
ay ibinabalita ang pagpapalit ng tanggapan at telepono
simula ika-apat ng Nobyembre 2003.
Ang Pasuguan ay sarado lamang sa Biyernes, ika-31 ng
Oktubre at Lunes, ika 3 ng Nobyembre.

Ang Pasuguan ng Canada sa MAYNILA ay nasa

Palapag 6, 7, at 8 ng Tower 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168

Maaaring tumawag o magpadala ng liham ang publiko
sa mga sumusunod:
Tel: 857-90-01
Fax: 843-10-82

Para sa aplikasyon sa bisa at mga bagay tungkol sa imigrasyon,
mangyaring tumawag sa Call Centre:
1-909-1018888 (PLDT)
1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
1-900-1018888 (GLOBE)
(Php18.00 ang halaga ng tawag kada minuto)

Ang pangkalahatang kaalaman ukol sa aplikasyon sa bisa
ay maaaring makuha mula sa aming website:
www.manila.gc.ca

Para sa partikular na serbisyo, maaring tawagan ang mga
sumunod na tanggapan:

Seksyon	Telepono	Fax
Immigration and Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
Management and Consular	857-90-01	843-10-82
Trade Commissioner Service	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Political, Economic Relations, and Public Affairs	857-90-13	843-10-78

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **Ms. MAY RELOJ CHKARAT** ceased to be connected with **PRU LIFE INSURANCE CORP. OF U.K.** as of 14 August 2003. Any transactions entered by her after 14 August 2003 will not be honored by PRU LIFE INSURANCE CORP. OF U.K. Further, notice is hereby given that PRU LIFE INSURANCE CORP. OF U.K.'s Agent's Provisional Receipt Serial numbers from **374411 to 374420** and from **374441 to 374450** have been voided by the company. Any transaction covered by any such Agent's Provisional Receipt will not be honored by the company.

(PDI - Nov. 2, 2003)

Republika ng Pilipinas
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

PHILIPPINE 2000

The KALAHI-CIDSS Project is in need of:

One (1) National Procurement Specialist

- ✓ College degree preferably Law or Business Adminstration;
- ✓ At least five (5) years experience in procurement or contract management within World Bank Projects;
- ✓ Knowledge of Procurement Procedures in International Financial Institutions (IFI) particularly World Bank is required;
- ✓ Adequate knowledge of all applicable laws and rules and regulations for the procurement of works, goods or services;
- ✓ Knowledgeable in computer operations; and
- ✓ Proficient in oral and written communication.

Application letter and Curriculum Vitaé may be submitted to:

Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills,
Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 931-8101 to 07 loc. 125
Telefax: 951-7116

Deadline of submission of application is on **04 November 2003.**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the **Radio Frequency Management Information System (Phase I)** for the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **28 October 2003** to be submitted not later than **11 November 2003, 5:00 P.M.**, through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **November 17 to 18, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **December 9, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **January 20, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. and 20 January 2004 at 2:15 P.M.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit **five (5) separate sealed envelopes; one (1)** envelope containing the **eligibility requirements, two (2)** envelopes containing **the technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and **two (2)** envelopes containing the **financial component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40"**.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that if may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO V. CABARIOS**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to serve notice that **NELSON BABALA ALVIAR,** whose picture appears above, has been terminated for cause by E2 LOGISTICS PHILIPPINES INC. on September 15, 2003. Henceforth, the company shall no longer honor any obligations entered into by said person on behalf of the company.

(PDI – November 2, 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
Abelardo G. Samonte Hall (Administration Building)
College, Laguna 4030 Philippines
Phone (049) 536-2748, Tel/Fax: (049) 536-3484
E-mail: ovcpd@admi.uplb.edu.ph / cpdo@mudspring.uplb.edu.ph

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS (INFRASTRUCTURE)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

Sealed bids for the furnishing of labor and materials for the CONSTRUCTION OF UPLB GYMNASIUM (COMPLETION OF PHASE III AND IV), UPLB, COLLEGE, LAGUNA will be received at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (OVCPD), Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna not later than 9:00 A.M., January 27, 2004, at which place, time and date said bids will be publicly opened.

Interested bidders who wish to prequalify may obtain prequalification statement forms (PRE-C) at the Campus Planning and Development Office (CPDO), College, Laguna, from November 03, 2003 to November 14, 2003 and should submit the same not later than November 21, 2003 to the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna. It is mandatory that the contractor presents the original copy (with a photocopy) of the current PCAB Contractor's License with the Integrated Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors for Government Infrastructure Projects for authentication.

The application for eligibility is open to all local Filipino contractors who are registered, categorized and classified by PCAB as contractors for government infrastructure projects with Size Range (Category) and Kind of Project (Classification) as MEDIUM B-Building (Minimum Category).

Proposal forms and other related documents are available for issuance to qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED & 00/100 ONLY (P5,500.00)** per set of documents from January 05, 2004 to January 09, 2004 at the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna.

Site inspection will be conducted at 8:30 A.M. and pre-bidding conference will be held at 9:30 A.M. on January 13, 2004 at the OVCPD, Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna. (The site inspection shall be strictly followed)

All particulars relative to procurement planning up to contract implementation and termination shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and other applicable rules and regulations

The U.P. Los Baños reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received and to accept such bids as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) CASIANO S. ABRIGO, JR.
Vice Chancellor and Chair

(PDI–Nov. 2, 2003)

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-PSD 2003-011

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 1, 2003; 9:00 AM			
11A1	PARTS FOR ASH SILO DUSTLESS UNLOADER/ MIXER, BRAND: UCC, MODEL: 3037/30	MCF-03-079 (LS)	P 1,500,000.00
11A2	PARTS FOR AIR COMPRESSOR MODEL ZR-5 (ATLAS COPCO)	MCF-03-203 (LS)	P 1,593,913.00
11A3	GLOBE VALVES & ANGLE NEEDLE VALVE	MCF-03-215 (LS)	Y 8,352,400.00
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 1, 2003; 2:00 PM			
11B1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, SUPERVISION, SPARE PARTS, TOOLS AND CONSUMABLES FOR ONE (1) YR. MAINT. SVCS. OF AIR-CONDITIONING MOTIVE AIR COOLING DRYING AND REF. SYSTEMS/UNITS OF BCFTPP	BCF-03-446 (NY)	P 1,470,000.00
11B2	CASTING OF BULL RING ASSEMBLY	BCF-03-669 (NY)	P 850,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 2, 2003; 9:00 AM			
11C1	JET-PIPE SERVO VALVE (ACTUATOR FOR CONTROL VALVE	BAC-03-531 (RP)	P 800,000.00
11C2	FAN BLADES, BRAND: HUDSON	BAC-03-609 (RP)	P 3,887,800.00
11C3	OIL COOLER ASSEMBLY	BAC-03-717 (RP)	P 5,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 2, 2003; 2:00 PM			
11D1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS, TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPERVISION IN THE REPLACEMENT OF OUTDOOR INSTRUMENT AIR PIPINGS AND TUBINGS AT PLANT A, B & C	TPM-03-024 (RP)	P 900,000.00
11D2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS AND EQUIPMENT TO EXPAND CAPABILITIES OF EXISTING PAGING AND INTERCOM SYSTEM AT PLANTS A, B, C DOMESTIC PUMP HOUSES AND NPC HOUSING COMPOUND OFFICES	TPM-03-047 (RP)	P 5,000,600.00
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 3, 2003; 9:00 AM			
11E1	MODULAR CHILLER PARTS FOR PLANT A MODULAR CHILLER PARTS FOR PLANT B MODULAR CHILLER PARTS FOR PLANT B	MGM-03-349 (RP) MGP-03-350 (RP) MGM-03-351 (RP)	P 2,639,735.00 P 4,288,653.00 P 3,170,943.00
11E2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF MATLS & INSTALLATION INCLUDING SUPERVISION FOR TWO (2) UNITS FAN MOTOR WITH AIR VENTILATING DUCT OF HOTWELL PUMP AT MBGPP UNITS 5 & 6	MGO-03-262 (RP)	P 3,200,000.00
11E3	J.O.-SUPPLY OF DEVICES, CONTROLS AND EQUIPT. FOR THE REFURBISHING AND REHAB OF FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM FOR MAK-BAN PLANT A	MGO-03-355 (RP)	P 15,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 3, 2003; 2:00 PM			
11F1	GIRTS, FAN DECK, SPLICES, LOUVERS, ETC. FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF COOLING TOWER	LGP-03-246 (RA)	P 26,142,050.00
11F2	POWER METERS (EMS)	LGP-03-341 (NY)	P 5,400,000.00
11F3	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATLS. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN INTEGRATED AND INTERCOM SYSTEM AT LGPP-1	LGP-03-334 (NY)	P 8,521,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 4, 2003; 9:00 AM			
11G1	PARTIAL DISCHARGE ANALYZER	LGP-03-344 (LS)	P 17,000,000.00
11G2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF HARDWARE/EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, ENG'G AND LABOR FOR THE INSTALLATION, TEST AND COMMISSIONING OF DISTRIBUTED CONTROL SYSTEM (DCS) FOR ONE (1) T/G UNIT OF THE PLANT	LGP-03-257 (RP)	P 12,000,000.00
11G3	PROTECTIVE RELAY TEST SET	PGP 1-03-184 (LS)	P 5,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 4, 2003; 2:00 PM			
11H1	RESISTOR, THYRISTOR, FUSE & FIELD CIRCUIT BREAKER OF GENERATOR FOR STATIC EXCITATION SYSTEM OF UNITS 1-4	MAG-03-179 (NY)	P 2,086,000.00
11H2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATLS FOR PARCELLARY SURVEY OF LIGAO-PIOU DURAN 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE	ERS-03-005 (NY)	P 1,224,000.00
11H3	J.O.-TO SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATLS FOR THE CONDUCT OF SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS OF TRANSFORMER OIL SAMPLES	APD-03-004 (NY)	P 1,060,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules on:

11A3, 11C2-11C3	NOV. 12, 2003; 9:00 AM	11F1-11F3	NOV. 14, 2003; 9:00 AM
11D2 & 11E1	NOV. 13, 2003; 10:00 AM	11G1-11G3 & 11H1	NOV. 14, 2003; 2:00 PM
11E2-11E3	NOV. 13, 2003; 2:00 PM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on **November 7, 2003. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. Last day of issuance of bid documents shall be seven (7) calendar days from bid date for each schedule.**

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI–November 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

16 October 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The Trustee Committee for the Welfareville Property, through the Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfareville Property located in Mandaluyong City known as Parcel 1 with an approximate land area of 718,313 square meters.

Interested parties may submit their Letters of Intent not later than 10:00 a.m. of 14 November 2003 and address the same for the attention of:

The Chairperson
Welfareville Development Project
Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC)
c/o DSWD, Asset Management Group
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said Parcel 1 shall be ready for distribution on 24 October 2003 at a non-refundable cost of PhP5,000.00 for each TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager's check. The TOR shall be obtained from Dir. Suzette Agcaoili, CESO III, Director IV, Asset Management Group, Ground Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, telefax no. 931-19-45 or 931-81-01 loc. 142.

A Pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., 14 November 2003, at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letters of Intent and secured the TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-bid conference.

Deadline for submission of bids is 10:00 a.m., 15 December 2003. Immediately thereafter, or at 10:01 a.m., the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.

The Trustee Committee, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason; waive any defect or required formality therein; assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he/she/they may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation; and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MYLENE G. ALBANO**
Assistant Secretary, DENR
Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI–Oct. 19, 26 & Nov. 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date :
Loan No. : PH-P200
IFRB No. : SEDIP-2003-FURN-IBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Supply and Delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, faculty rooms and guidance rooms of the different secondary schools in the six (6) Batch 1 Division Offices under SEDIP following the schedule below:

Division Office	Start of Issuance of Bid Documents	Time and Date of Prebid Conference	Time and Date of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
1. Benguet	November 3, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 7, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 17, 2003	Division Office of Benguet, La Trinidad	074-4222001
2. Ifugao	November 3, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 10, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 20, 2003	Division Office of Ifugao Lagawe	074-3822140
3. Antique	November 3, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 11, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 21, 2003	Division Office of Antique, San Jose	036-5406988
4. Guimaras	November 3, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 12, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 24, 2003	Division Office of Guimaras, Jordan	033-2371032 2371612
5. Agusan del Sur	November 3, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 13, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 25, 2003	Division Office of Agusan Del Sur, Patin-ay, Prosperidad	085-3437487
6. Surigao del Sur	November 3, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 14, 2003	10:00 AM, Nov. 26, 2003	Division Office of Surigao del Sur, Tandag	086-2113225

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantity of all the furniture items intended for the schools in each Division per Schedule of Requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the respective Division BAC Offices and telephone numbers listed in paragraph 2 or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph or the Procurement Service at http://www.procurementservice.org.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the respective DepEd Division Office cashier of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos only (P300.00)
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount must be delivered to the respective Offices of the Bids and Awards Committee at the time and date indicated in paragraph 2 at which time, date and place, said bids will be opened for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The DepEd Division Offices concerned reserve the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2003)

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College, Laguna 4030 Philippines
Phone (049) 536-2748, Tel/Fax: (049) 536-3484
E-mail: ovcpd@admi.uplb.edu.ph / cpdo@mudspring.uplb.edu.ph

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS (INFRASTRUCTURE)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

Sealed bids for the furnishing of labor and materials for the **IMPROVEMENT OF OLD AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING BUILDING, PILI DRIVE, UPLB, COLLEGE, LAGUNA** will be received at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (OVCPD), Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna not later than **9:00 A.M., February 10, 2004,** at which place, time and date said bids will be publicly opened.

Interested bidders who wish to prequalify may obtain prequalification statement forms (PRE-C) at the Campus Planning and Development Office (CPDO), College, Laguna, from **November 03, 2003** to **November 14, 2003** and should submit the same not later than **November 21, 2003** to the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna. It is mandatory that the contractor presents the original copy (with a photocopy) of the current PCAB Contractor's License with the Integrated Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors for Government Infrastructure Projects for authentication.

The application for eligibility is open to all local Filipino contractors who are registered, categorized and classified by PCAB as contractors for government infrastructure projects with Size Range (Category) and Kind of Project (Classification) as **MEDIUM B-Building** (Minimum Category).

Proposal forms and other related documents are available for issuance to qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS SIX THOUSAND & 00/100 ONLY (P6,000.00)** per set of documents from **January 12, 2004** to **January 16, 2004** at the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna.

Site inspection will be conducted at **8:30 A.M.** and pre-bidding conference will be held at **9:30 A.M.** on **January 20, 2004** at the OVCPD, Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna. (The site inspection shall be strictly followed).

All particulars relative to procurement planning up to contract implementation and termination shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The U.P. Los Baños reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received and to accept such bids as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **CASIANO S. ABRIGO, JR.**
Vice Chancellor and Chair

(PDI–Nov. 2, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

SIERRA TOURS, INC., would like to inform the public that **MR. JUAN "JOHNNY" U. ARIZOBAL** is no longer connected with us effective 03 October 2003.

Any transaction entered into by the above person on or after 03 October 2003 shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI – November 2, 2003)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that *Mr. RODEL V. GARGANTA I* whose picture appears above ceased to be connected with INK FOR LESS, Inc. effective August 14, 2003.

A criminal case for qualified THEFT has been filed against Mr. R. GARGANTA I before the Office of the City Prosecutor of Pasig City and docketed as **IS NO. 03-10-17678.**

Any transaction entered by the said person for and in behalf of the company from the specified date shall not be honored by the company

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

DATE : 27 October 2003
TO : To All Eligible Suppliers
SUBJECT : Request for Quotations
(RFQ#KALAHI-CIDSS/03-DSWD-013)

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of the KALAHI-CIDSS KKB Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this request for quotation is issued.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), hereinafter referred to as the Purchaser, now requests you to submit fixed price quotation for the supply, delivery and installation of the following Air conditioning Units:

2 units	Hi-wall air conditioner, 7.5 tonner
1 unit	Ceiling Mounted air conditioner, 5 tonner
2 units	Hi-wall air conditioner, 3 tonner
13 units	Window type air conditioner, 2hp

3. A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by interested bidders upon submission of letter of intent addressed to:
   Chairperson
   Bids and Awards Committee
   Department of Social Welfare and Development
   Batasan Pambansa Complex Constitution Hills
   Quezon City
   Phone: 931-8107 to 07 loc. 125
   Telefax: 951-7116
4. The Price Quotation Sheet attached to the Quotation Form spells out the Quantities, Technical Description and Delivery Schedule required for this procurement.
5. Delivery of the goods and services will be made at the DSWD Central Office, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City within 15 calendar days from the date of acceptance of the Purchase Order. Prior to delivery, the SUPPLIER shall notify the DSWD regarding the scheduled date of delivery.
6. The duly accomplished Quotation Form and Price Quotation Sheet shall be sealed in an envelope properly labeled "QUOTATION FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF AIR CONDITIONERS" and submitted at the **DSWD Board Room on November 19, 2003 at 4:00 p.m.** Thereafter, quotations will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who chose to attend. Late quotation/s will not be accepted.
7. Prior to the submission of the proposal/s a Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **November 12, 2003, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Board Room, 4/F DSWD Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City**.
8. Validity of quotations should be for a period of forty-five (45) days after the date of deadline for submission of quotations.
9. The lowest evaluated responsive quotation, shall be determined based on price and bid compliance (technical specifications and delivery schedule) to whom an award shall be made.
10. Post-qualification pursuant to IBRD rules shall be conducted. As such, the Supplier shall be required to submit the following eligibility requirements:
    a. Business Name or Securities and Exchange Commission Registration Certificate Business Permit;
    b. Taxpayer's Identification Number;
    c. Income Tax Return for the last two years; and
    d. Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 years
11. The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, and to annul the procurement process and reject all quotations at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected supplier or suppliers or any obligation to inform the affected supplier or suppliers of the Goods for the Purchaser's action.

Thank you.

(Sgd.) **Asst. Sec. RHODA F. YAP**
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

DATE : 20 October 2003
TO : To All Eligible Suppliers
SUBJECT : Request for Quotations
(RFQ#KALAHI-CIDSS/03-DSWD-016)

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of the KALAHI-CIDSS KKB Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this request for quotation is issued.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), hereinafter referred to as the Purchaser, now requests you to submit fixed price quotation for the supply and delivery of Passenger Van.
3. The Price Quotation Sheet attached to the Quotation Form spells out the Quantities, Technical Description and Delivery Schedule required for this procurement.
4. Delivery of the goods and services will be made at the DSWD Central Office, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City within 15 calendar days from the date of acceptance of the Purchase Order. Prior to delivery, the SUPPLIER shall notify the DSWD regarding the scheduled date of delivery.
5. The duly accomplished Quotation Form and Price Quotation Sheet shall be sealed in an envelope properly labeled "QUOTATION FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PASSENGER VAN" and submitted at the **DSWD Board Room on November 19, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** Thereafter, quotations will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who chose to attend. Late quotation/s will not be accepted.
6. Prior to the submission of the proposal/s a Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **November 12, 2003, 10:00 a.m.** at the **DSWD Board Room, 4/F DSWD Building,** Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.
7. Validity of quotation should be for a period of forty-five (45) days after the date of deadline for submission of quotations.
8. The lowest evaluated responsive quotations, shall be determined based on price and bid compliance (technical specifications and delivery schedule) to whom an award shall be made.
9. Post-qualification pursuant to IBRD rules shall be conducted. As such, the Supplier shall be required to submit the following eligibility requirements:
   a. Business Name or Securities and Exchange Commission Registration Certificate; Business Permit;
   b. Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   c. Income Tax Return for the last two years; and
   d. Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 years
10. The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, and to annul the procurement process and reject all quotations at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected supplier or suppliers or any obligation to inform the affected supplier or suppliers of the Goods for the Purchaser's action.

Thank you.

(Sgd.) **Asst. Sec. RHODA F. YAP**
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

Invitation for Bids

Loan No. 7147 PH
IFB No. KALAHI CIDSS-03/DSWD-008

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB Project, (Loan No. 7147 PH). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), KALAHI-CIDSS Project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the World Bank guidelines. Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits are open to all bidders from eligible countries as defined in the guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and secure the complete set of bidding documents, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Property and Supply Division, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **November 03, 2003**, on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) per copy*.
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of the Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than *Two (2%) percent* of the total bid price in a form of bank guarantee from a reputable commercial bank, Irrevocable letter of Credit, Manager's Check, Cashier or Certified check, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected.
8. Prior to bid opening, a Pre-bid Conference will be held on *November 19, 2003, 10:00 a.m.* at the *Board Room, DSWD Building*, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines.
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on *December 03, 2003; 2:00 p.m.*

The Chairperson
c/o BAC Secretariat
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Board Room, DSWD Building
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. (632) 931-8161
Fax (632) 951-7116

(Sgd.) **Asst. Sec. RHODA F. YAP**
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee-I

(PDI - Nov. 2, 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
Abelardo G. Samonte Hall (Administration Building)
College, Laguna 4030 Philippines
Phone (049) 536-2748, Tel/Fax: (049) 536-3484
E-mail: ovcpd@admi.uplb.edu.ph / cpdo@mudspring.uplb.edu.ph

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS (INFRASTRUCTURE)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

Sealed bids for the furnishing of labor and materials for the **CONSTRUCTION OF CHEMISTRY BUILDING (PHASE I), UPLB, COLLEGE, LAGUNA** will be received at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (OVCPD), Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna not later than **9:00 A.M., January 20, 2004**, at which place, time and date said bids will be publicly opened.

Interested bidders who wish to prequalify may obtain prequalification statement forms (PRE-C) at the Campus Planning and Development Office (CPDO), College, Laguna, from **November 03, 2003 to November 14, 2003** and should submit the same not later than **November 21, 2003** to the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna. It is mandatory that the contractor presents the original copy (with a photocopy) of the current PCAB Contractor's License with the Integrated Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors for Government Infrastructure Projects for authentication.

The application for eligibility is open to all local Filipino contractors who are registered, categorized and classified by PCAB as contractors for government infrastructure projects with Size Range (Category) and Kind of Project (Classification) as **MEDIUM A-Building** (Minimum Category).

Proposal forms and other related documents are available for issuance to qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED & 00/100 ONLY (P4,500.00)** per set of documents from **December 15, 2003 to December 19, 2003** at the CPDO, UPLB, College, Laguna.

Site inspection will be conducted at **8:30 A.M.** and pre-bidding conference will be held at **9:30 A.M. on January 06, 2004** at the OVCPD, Abelardo G. Samonte Hall, UPLB, College, Laguna. (The scheduled site inspection shall be strictly followed).

All particulars relative to procurement planning up to contract implementation and termination shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The U.P. Los Baños reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received and to accept such bids as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **CASIANO S. ABRIGO, JR.**
Vice Chancellor and Chair

(PDI–Nov. 2, 2003)

AMORE Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY FOR BIDDING

Winrock International, an international NGO based in the U.S. and operating in more than 40 countries including the Philippines, is inviting interested companies to submit applications to pre-qualify for bidding for the supply of micro-hydro power equipment for two rural communities ("barangays") in Mindanao.

This requirement is in line with Winrock's energization of at least 160 remote communities in Western and Central Mindanao including the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) with sustainable renewable energy systems for individual household and communal lighting as well as for micro-enterprise and social services development, under its 30-month Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (AMORE) Program funded by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented in partnership with the Philippine Department of Energy, the ARMM, and Mirant Philippines.

Supply, delivery, construction, installation and maintenance of the following **micro-hydro** equipment for Barangay Chua, Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat and Sitio Lamalis, Barangay Datalblao, Colombio, Sultan Kudarat are required:

A. Complete civil works, including the waterway down to the end of the tailrace, and all hydro-mechanical works (excluding the turbine generator set under B below), as per the design/drawings, specifications and bills of quantities specified under the civil works;

B. Complete turbine generator set, from the turbine isolation valve to the control panel, as per the design/drawings, specifications and bills of quantities specified under the generating equipment works; and

C. Complete electrical distribution lines, starting from the feeder cables to the control panel, as per the design/drawings, specifications and bills of quantities specified under the distribution line works.

The source and origin of all equipment should be from the U.S.

Also included in the scope of work of the successful bidder are the following:

A. Performance of final engineering work as required and updating of preliminary drawings;
B. Coordination with other suppliers/contractors working on the project with regard to any design/supply adaptation at the penstock end, the powerhouse foundation/layout/size, and the control panel outlet; and
C. Training of micro-hydro operators at the sites during the installation and testing of the equipment.

The bid accreditation form could be requested from Fernando C. Desamito, Winrock-AMORE Purchasing Officer, at unit 1501 15/F Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600, Philippines (tel. 632-6879091/92/94, fax 632-6318215, and-email desamito@amore.org.ph) from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays starting November 03 to December 03, 2003.

All fully accomplished bid accreditation forms and other required documents should be submitted also to Mr. Desamito on or before December 03, 2003.

These documents will be screened by a duly constituted Winrock-AMORE Bid Committee. Pre-qualified companies will receive, by registered mail, a formal invitation from Winrock-AMORE to a Pre-bid Conference, where details of the equipment requirements and the scope of work will be discussed and inquiries entertained.

Winrock-AMORE reserves the right to reject any and all applications and subsequent bids, waive any formality in this pre-qualification and bidding process, and accept any bid that is most advantageous to AMORE.

(Sgd.) **ADONIS K. DATU**
Chairman
Bid Committee

(PDI–Nov. 2, 2003)

REAL ESTATE *Quarterly*

Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, Inc. 25 Silver Jubilee Storm

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER and REBAP have joined hands to come out with a special supplement quarterly.

Titled as, "Real Estate Quarterly" is a special pull-out supplement of the Philippine Daily Inquirer that features upcoming and ongoing real estate developments, trends, tips to buyers and sellers and other related real estate businesses . It also brings about an advisory to the general public through its advertorials. REBAP, an organization of real estate professionals, takes charge in writing about its unbiased project evaluation.

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PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE
Air Force Logistics and Support Command
Headquarters 420th Supply Wing
Clark Air Base, Air Force City
Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

The PAF Disposal Committee will receive sealed bids until 25 November 2003, 10:00 AM at Conference Room, 420th Supply Wing, PAF Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on "As is Where is" basis.

Lot Number/Description	Location	Min. Bid Price
3-283-022 Ten (10) T-28 Engines with Canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P450,000.00
5-283-023 (8) T-28 Engines w/o Canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	320,000.00
Lot II-D Assorted Aircraft Parts	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	12,000.00
Lot III-D Assorted Aircraft Parts	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	16,000.00
02-190-07 One (1) Airplane Utility N22B with Tail Nr B-20	220th Airlift Wing, Benito Ebuen Air Base, Mactan	12,000.00

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to (10%) of the bid price.
4. To be on time. No bid will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Pre-bid conference and issuance of Bid Forms (P200.00 per set) will be on 18 November 2003, 2:00 PM at 420th SW Conference Room,Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga.
6. Inspection schedule will be from 03-14 November 2003, from 0800H to 1600H, Monday to Friday.

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PAF.

For details and schedule of inspection call Cpt Roberto M. Pascua PAF at (045) 599-2015 loc. 6524 or mobile 09197774040.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN C ESTEPA**
Colonel, PAF (JSC)
Chairman PAF Disposal Committee

(PDI–Nov. 1, 2 & 3, 2003)

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"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:6-7

EVELYN P. ALIKPALA

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 1, 2003 at the age of 56.

We, her bereaved family, mother **ELISA**; brothers and sisters; in-laws; nephews and nieces request you to join us in celebrating ***Evelyn's*** coming home to the Lord.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

Adella "Nena" Ungco Borja

of Pateros, Metro Manila

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 31, 2003 at the age of 88.

Her bereaved childern **Ben** & **Mita**; **Tita** & **Bert**; **Rinal** (†) & **Poye**; grandchildren **Marites**, **Carol**, **Benjie**, **BJ**, **Bernie**, **Carmela**, **Dondon**, **Dee-Dee** and great grandchildren, sisters-in-law, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel 3, Garden of Memories Memorial Chapels, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

2nd Death Anniversary
of
Dr. Milagros "Bong" Eraña
(June 3, 1940 – November 2, 2001)

Masses will be offered at the following churches on November 2, 3003

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	7:00 a.m.
Mary Mother of Good Counsel Parish *Marcelo Green* Village, Parañaque City	6:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Makati Medical Center *Makati City*	7:30 a.m.
San Antonio de Padua Parish *Pila, Laguna*	7:30 a.m.

Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul
"WE NEVER LOSE THOSE WE GIVE TO GOD"

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

AUGUSTO "BLONY" OCAMPO CAMPOS

30 August 1934 - 02 November 1998

His children **Sarah** and **Ricky**, **Joey** and **Dina**, **Janet**, **Judith**, **Nonoy**, **Junsky** and **Mary Rose**, **Jojo** and **Bob**, **Jennifer**, **John** and **Chrisette** and **Paolo**; grandchildren **Bam**, **Blonski**, **Adlyn**, **Javi**, **Llonie**, **Enzo**, **Church**, **Sandro**, **Jasmine**, **Danielle**, **Tara**, **Robby**, **Ricardo**, **Keoni**, **Bea**, **Blony**, **Andy**, **Cheru**, **Iñaki**, **Zacky**, **China** and **Sabine**.

Masses will be offered on 02 November 2003 at the following:

St. John Bosco Parish (Arnaiz St., Makati)	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Remedies Parish (M.H. Del Pilar, Malate)	6:00 a.m.
San Pedro Apostle Parish (San Pedro, Laguna)	6:00 a.m.
Sto. Rosario Parish (San Pedro, Laguna)	6:30 a.m.
Colegio de Sta. Rosa (Estrella St., Makati)	7:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño De Paz Community (Greenbelt Chapel, Makati)	7:15 a.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish (Bel-Air, Makati)	7:30 a.m.
Parokya ng Immaculada Concepcion (Antipolo)	8:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio (Forbes Park, Makati)	12:15 p.m.
St. Jude Thaddeus Parish (Trece Martires, Cavite)	4:00 p.m.
San Isidro Labrador Parish (San Pedro, Laguna)	5:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish (Magallanes, Makati)	6:00 p.m.
Parish of Sta. Maria dela Strada (La Vista, Quezon City)	6:00 p.m.

Capt. Ceferino E. Ladioray Jr.

has sailed forth to join his Creator as well as his wife **Ched** on October 30, 2003 at the age of 73.

His children **Ariel** and **Pearl**, and **Jay**; his sisters, brother and family deeply miss his love of life and gift of laughter.

Wake: Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo
Interment: November 5, 2003, Heaven's Gate 1, 3 PM

FISCAL BONIFACIO I. MARASIGAN

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 27, 2003 at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Lourdes**; his children **Lovely** and **Edmund**, **Haidee** and **Ferdie**, **Mylene** and **Mike**; his grandchildren **Patriz**, **Pau**, **Pipo**, **Ashley**, **Matt** and **Mika**; and his brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends, request the kind readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **San Fernando Funeral Homes** at Brgy. Marawoy, Lipa City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 3, 2003 at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Inosluban, Lipa City after 1:00 p.m. Mass at Marawoy Parish Church, Levitown, Marawoy, Lipa City.

Remembering Our Beloved

DR. MELANIO AQUINO BIBAY

Schedule of Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on his Second Death Anniversary in the following Churches on **Nov. 2, 2003:**

National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Mayon, Q.C.	– 6 am / 6 pm
Basilica of Black Nazarene Quiapo, Manila	– 6 am / 12:15 noon
Sta. Teresita Del Niño Jesus Parish Mayon, Q.C.	– 6 am / 6 pm
Divine Savior Parish Chapel North Fairview, Q.C.	– 6 am / 6 pm
Mt. Carmel Shrine New Manila, Q.C.	– 6 pm.
St. Michael's Chapel Fort Bonifacio	– 7 am
Sanctuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati	– 12 noon

Papang, we love you so dearly
and you will always be alive in our hearts
MAMANG, BOY, RED, MYKEL, YAM, JERA, DEBBIE, KRIS, KEVIN, JADE, JAM and KAYLA

"The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."
I John 2:17

We, the family of the late

GIANNINA IMPERIAL FRANCISCO

Who went home to her Lord and Savior
on November 2, 1993

Fondly remember and deeply miss
Our beloved **Nina**,
Whose life was a legacy of faith, courage and love.

On the year of her 10th death anniversary, masses will be held at Christ the King Seminary in her memory.

MARCIANO BLANCO DIVINO

Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on 31 October 2003 at the age of 88.

His bereaved children and in-laws **PAZ** & **RAMON SANTIAGO**, **JIMMY** & **BESSIE** and **TRINI** & **GANI MERCADO**; grandchildren **SUSAN** & **BILLY PREJULA**, **SYLVIA** & **RAYMOND**; **JA** & **NINA** & **TWEENY**; **KATHYRYN** & **STEPHEN SUMULONG**, **MARK**, **KRISTINE** & **K-RON**; great grandchildren **ENRIQUE**, **JAZMINE**, **SHAWIN**, **DIEGO** & **JAMES** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Resurrection Chapel, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Claret) Mahinhin St., U.P. Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, 05 November 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2126, (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City • Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City; Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1085; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City. Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguil, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
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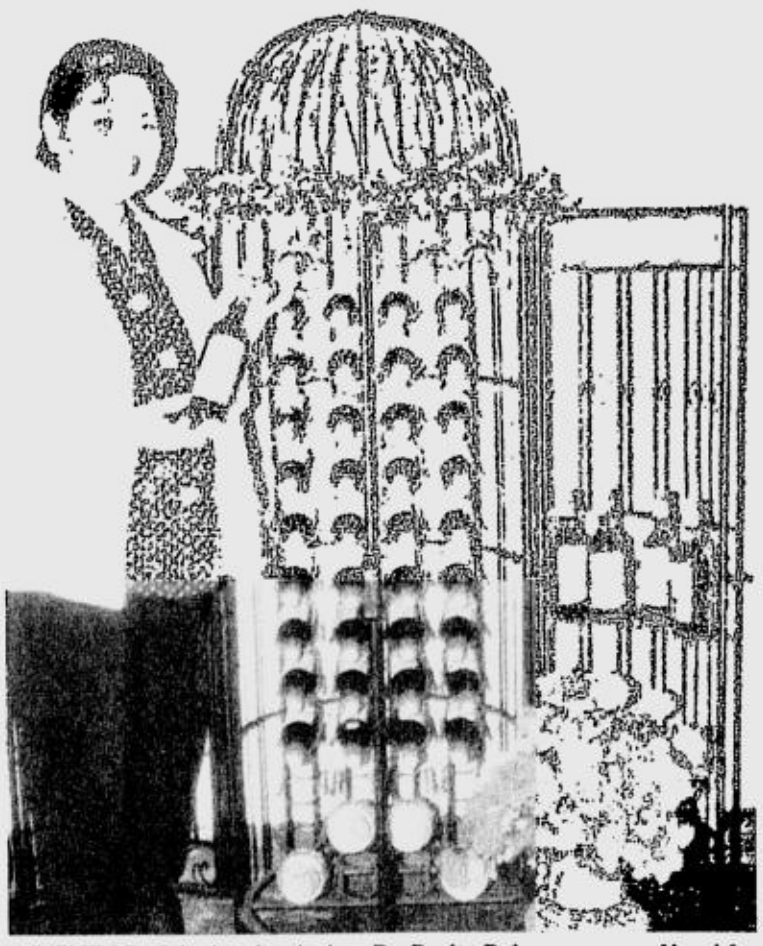
Sunday BIZ

A walk in a farmland yields Bicol's first red wine



INVENTOR of the local red wine, Dr. Purita Balean, owner of Jarahfra Beverages and Wine Products. PDI PHOTO / SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—It was accidental for Dr. Purita Balean of Barangay Bonbon, Tabaco City, to venture into the manufacture and eventual selling of the now popular "ethnic red wine" in the Bicol Region.

It happened after her visit at their family farmland 13 years ago in Barangay Sta. Misericordia, Sto. Domingo, Albay, which is strategically located at the foot of Mayon Volcano.

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

Balean relates that sometime in 1990, she and her husband were already planning to go home after roaming around the farmland to see their plantation and the condition of the cows that they had when a very familiar smell of a fruit already fermented on the ground reminded her of the laboratory for making wine in the Scotland University where she earned her master's degree.

The fruit is locally called *hagis*, which belongs to the family of berries or syzygium fruits.

"Venturing into making wine out of this fruit never came to my mind, until the hagis fruit reminded me. It was a blessing in disguise that my professor taught us wine making. That university was very popular in Britain since there were numerous professors there who were in-charge of analyzing all kinds of wine in UK," Balean says.

After the farm visit, she researched on the hagis fruit, and for the next seven years she found out that it was not only hagis which had the potential to be fermented as a major ingredient in her "projected first red wine," but even other berry varieties like tambis, igot, makopa, zambo, and baligang, which can be very productive materials, too, for ethnic red wine making.

"That consistent research discovery led me to a decision to come up with an ethnic red wine made from blended fruits from these berry varieties, so it became the honey sweet berry red wine," Balean explains.

Balean now owns the Jarahfra Beverages and Wine Products Enterprises. Jarahfra is the acronym for the first letters of the names of her children: Joy, Alan, Rowena, Angel, Hanah and France.

She is also the chief research specialist of the Technical Services Division of the Department of Science and Technology Region V.

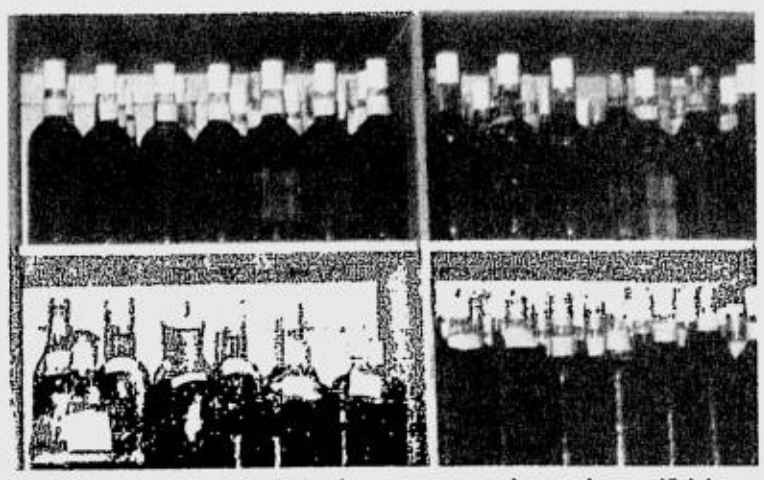
Family consumption

In 1997, the Balean family started to pick fruits in their farmland.

At first, her purpose in making the red wine was only for her family's consumption, since most of the members enjoy drinking the wine during mealtime.

"Making the wine became part of our usual activities at home and of course, it is in small quantity only. So, basically, my family was the panelist and they would tell me if the wine tasted good or not," the DOST official says.

Balean's neighbors and close friends were then able to taste the finished product and persuaded her to maximize the volume of production of the wine since they were willing to order for their consumption.



THE ALL natural local red wine has no preservatives and no artificial ingredients. It contains 6.8 percent alcohol compared to the usual table wine which contains about 8 to 13 percent. PDI PHOTO/ SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

People from other municipalities of Albay learned of the product and requested her to show them a sample for tasting. They liked its taste and also ordered for it.

First trade fair

The first "Tabak Festival" celebration of Tabaco City came. Balean was invited by the Department of Trade and Industry Region V to join the trade fair during the festival to showcase her unique ethnic honey sweet red berry wine.

"I could not believe that it (wine) was totally sold out. Both tourists and people from Tabaco couldn't believe that there was this kind of wine in Bicol. Somehow it marked the beginning of our business," Balean says.

Other regions, particularly Region 8 and other Visayan regions, began requesting her to send them her product.

DTI Secretary Mar Roxas and Deputy Presidential Assistant for Bicol Manny Imperial were very much impressed with the product's natural packaging.

They liked its taste, with no added preservative and artificial ingredients. Even priests and sisters in a convent in Albay have tasted and liked it, too, suggesting that it could be a good substitute for Mompo, the most common wine that priests use in the celebration of the Holy Mass.

Demand

Many started to place orders.

Balean admits they could not cope with the demand since it takes six months to one year to ferment the berry varieties plus they don't have the advance technology for wine processing.

"I have to explain to our clients that the process of making this particular red wine is by natural fermentation, which requires a long period to produce the real taste of the honey sweet berry red wine. Three months could be enough but the wine is not clear and you cannot savor its real taste," Balean says.

Her other problem is that she is working eight hours everyday in the DOST.

"So, basically it's only either during weekends or after office that I continue making the orders from our many buyers," she says.

Her children are now in-charge of the marketing while her husband Abraham Balean, an engineer, is supervising the processing.

Processing

Balean says the process involved in the honey sweet berry red wine starts with the gathering of syzygium fruits. Their farmland now has a copious plantation of the fruits.

After the harvesting, the fruits gathered are weighed and washed.

"We always make sure that they are properly weighed and carefully washed, so we don't take fruits that have already been fermented in the ground to avoid contamination," she says.

The berries are then crushed. Balean stresses that at all her workers wear laboratory gowns and hand gloves since this involves manual procedure and considerably one of the sensitive steps in natural red wine processing.

In crushing, she says, the processors must see to it that fruits are squeezed hard to produce a soggy flow of juices. This is important in natural fermentation, as the fruit's sugar is converted to alcohol and lactic acid.

"We avoid overripe fruits since they could affect the succeeding processes in red wine making," Balean says.

The fruits are then sterilized and mixed together. No other ingredients and preservatives are added.

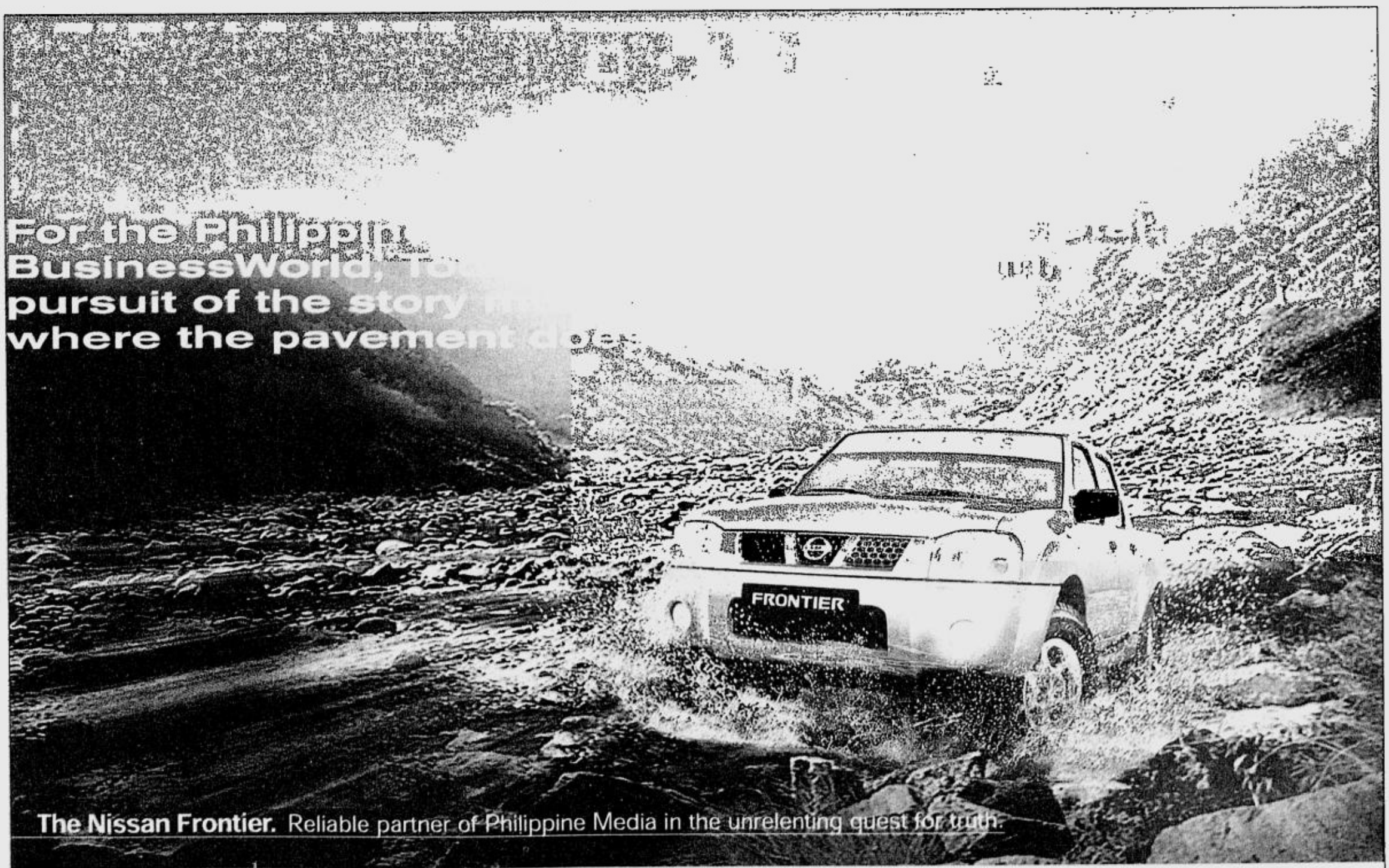
The product is manually bottled, sealed, packed and labeled.

The regular cost of the red wine is P80.

"Another problem we face in processing is the lack of advance technology to shorten the processing time in order to maximize the production volume to meet the demand of the customers," Balean says.

The honey sweet red berry wine produced by Jarahfra contains only 6.8 percent alcohol, less than that of the usual table wine, which contains about 8-13 percent.

Balean says she always emphasizes to a buyer the health values of her wine. She recounted that she had some customers who were anemic, but when they drank the wine, they felt a sudden relief.



E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Goma would rather have more kids than run in '04

FATHER AND CHILD. In addition to Juliana, now 3, Richard wants to have three more, while wife Lucy wants six.

By Nini Valera

POLITICS is no longer an option for actor Richard Gomez.

Richard, 37, was disgusted over the fate of his party-list group Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), which the Commission on Elections had disqualified for not meeting the party-list qualifications set by the Supreme Court. Had this not happened, Richard would have been one of the three MAD party-list representatives sitting in the House of Representatives after the group garnered 1.4 million votes, or 9.9 percent of the total party-list votes cast in the last elections.

"I would like to focus on my family first," Richard, also known as Goma, told INQUIRER Entertainment during a break in the filming of his movie, "Filipinas."

Richard is married to Lucy Torres. The couple has one child, Juliana.

"We're trying for more children," he confided. "I would like to have four children, and Lucy wants to have six. It would be nice to have a big family if you could manage it."

He describes himself as a disciplinarian when it comes to rearing his daughter.

At 3, Juliana is still oblivious to the fame of her parents. "When we go out and a lot of people are looking at us, she wonders why they are looking at us," he said. "She has that kind of attitude. She still does not know why people look at us."

An only child himself, Richard believes that

GOMA/ C6

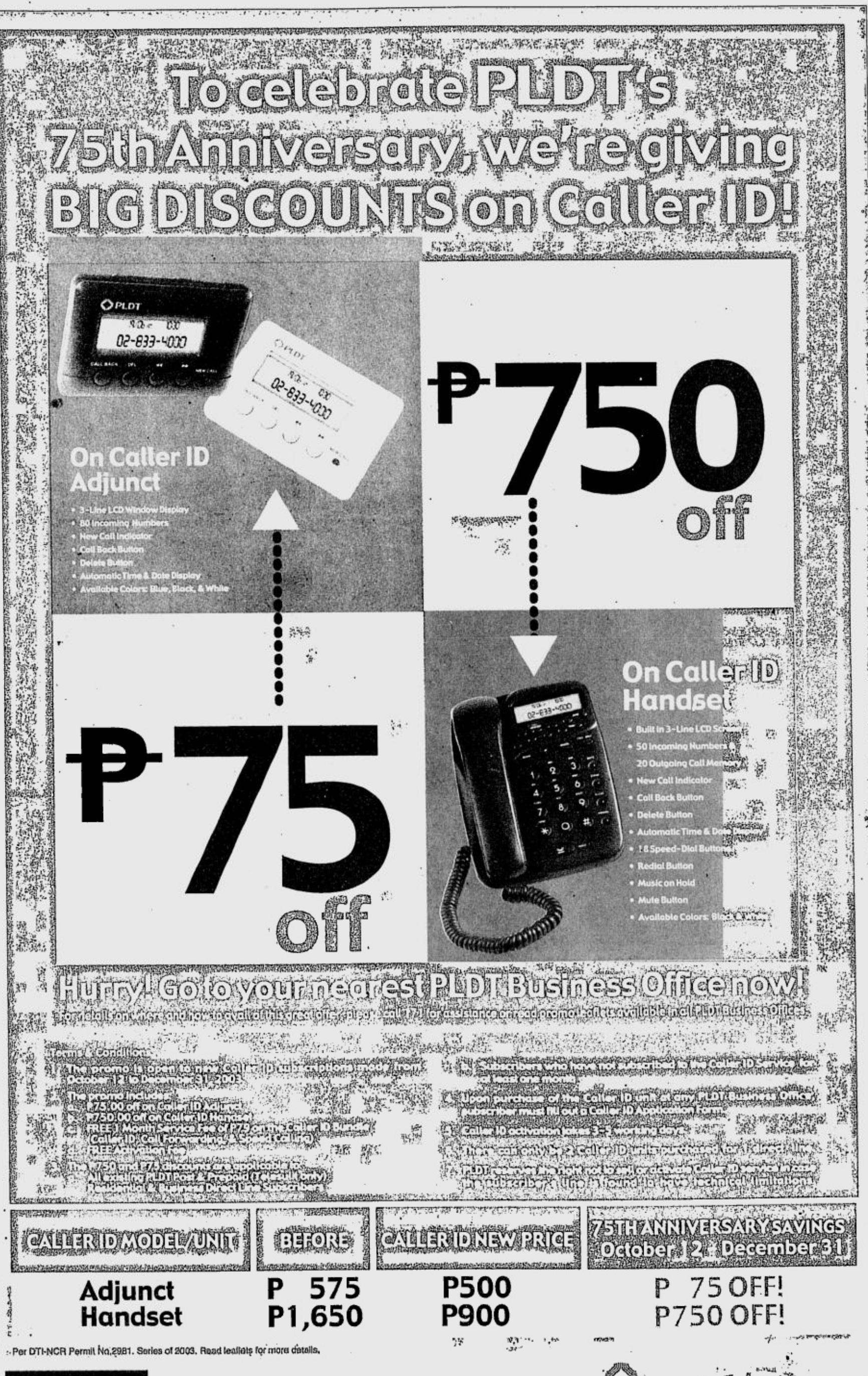
DID YOU KNOW...

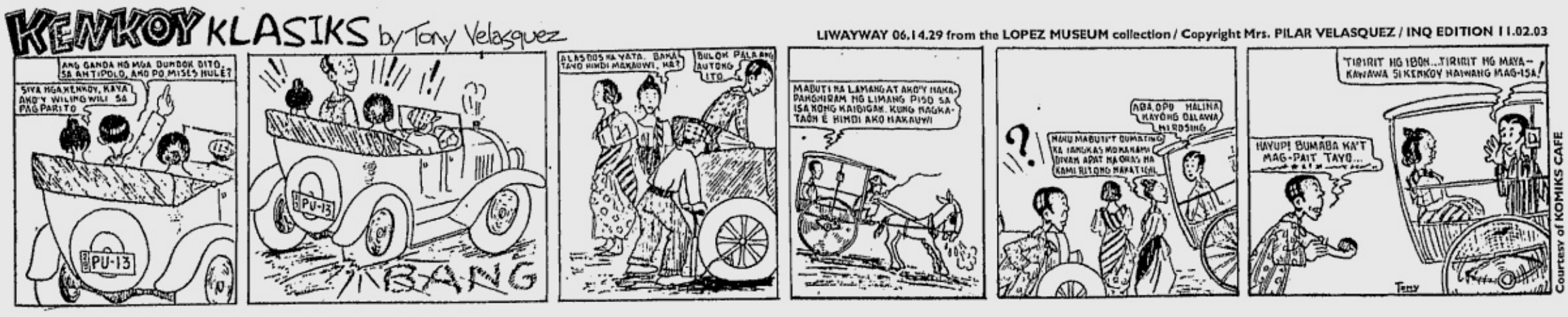
Award-winning director **Marilou Diaz-Abaya** texted "TV Patrol" last Monday night and requested the ABS-CBN early evening newscast to stop airing the video clip showing her walking alongside action king **Fernando Poe Jr.**, who is believed to be running for president in the 2004 elections. Abaya said the clip implies that she is supporting FPJ. Abaya said she is supporting Sen. **Raul Roco.**

NAKED AMBITION. Diana Zubiri is "Liberated."

'Sensuality' workshop pays off

/C8





'Star in a Million' now a separate program

TAKING its cue from US TV's "American Idol," "ASAP Mania" has been discovering outstanding new singers in its "Star in a Million" portion, which goes into a process of weekly eliminations before coming up with a winner.

The competition has been doing so well that, effective Nov. 8, it will be spin off into a separate program, to be telecast Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. on Channel 2.

Still titled "Star in a Million," the now independent competition has been expanded into a "reality" format that shows viewers the entire star-building process in show biz.

Different challenges will test the 10 contestants' determination, energy, creativity and talent. It is hoped that these tests will reveal the young performers' positive and negative traits, so that both judges and viewers can more productively and insightfully determine which contestants "deserve" stardom most.

After six weeks of eliminations, the final five will compete in the show's finals, with the winner getting P1 million in cash, plus a house and lot.

Program hosts are **Edu Manzano** and **Zsa Zsa Padilla**, while **Ryan Agoncillo** hosts the reality segments. Incidentally, the show's reality component will go into the contestants' lives, so it could give the program a "soap opera" flavor every now and then.

Let's hope, though, that the judges are able to distinguish between the contestants' talent and "melodrama quotient" of their personal conflicts. Getting them mixed up would never do.

Lots of luck to the new show's first 10 contestants—**Christian Bautista, Gayle Dizon, Johan Esañan, Teresa Garcia, Czarina Rosales, Sherin Regis, Michelle San Miguel, Marinelle Santos, Eric Santos** and **DK Tijam**.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Even endless loves end

LAST week, we made it a point to catch the finale of the TV chinovela "Endless Love" to see what all the tears and tribulations were all about. Well, we got tears aplenty that day, since the heroine was about to die, and her boyfriend was dead-set on committing suicide so they could be "together forever."

There really wasn't much of a plot to the final episode. The lovers merely spent a long time looking sadly at each other as the seconds and minutes ticked away, and life drained out of her.

The lover was more conflicted than his lady love, because he was in good health but had lost all reason for living. So, he tried to end it all, but she wouldn't let him.

The episode was instructive because it showed that bad acting conventions die hard not just in the Philippines, but in other parts of Asia as well. This is the sort of suspiring, superannuated performance that was rife in the '50s, but it's still the acting style of choice half a century later!

Just goes to show mediocrity seeks its own level, and if the majority of the viewing populace is unenlightened and is stuck at that level, then bad acting will remain popular for decades on end!

We thought that the youth would be eager to reject the excesses and insufficiencies of the past, but shows like "Endless Love" prove otherwise. Their makers and stars are relatively young, but they are content in perpetuating hackneyed performance conventions of yore.

Production styles may get jazzed up, but low melodrama stubbornly remains, numbing the hearts and minds of succeeding generations of hapless viewers.

Scriptwriting workshop

FROM ace screenwriter **Ricky Lee**: "Last Oct. 26, we had our first registration day for the ABS-CBN free scriptwriting workshop which I will conduct. There were 2,054 applicants who registered, were interviewed and took the test. Some were products of your workshops who spoke highly of you. Many came all the way from Cebu, Mindoro, Baguio, Cabanatuan and Bicol.

"We are taking in only 60 participants, but most of the applicants said they didn't mind. They just have this insatiable need to tell their stories. And the experience of going through the whole process was reward enough for them.

"Thank you for all the support. We still have a second and last day of registration on Nov. 8, for others who are interested in registering."

De Molina's masterpiece

"DON Juan: And Babaero ng Sevilla," a Filipino translation of Tirso de Molina's masterpiece from the Spanish Golden Age, will be staged by Tanghalang Ateneo at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater on Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.

Other performances are at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Nov. 22, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Nov. 23, and 7 p.m. from Nov. 25 to 27. Call 426-6001 local 5056.

In the play, wealthy nobleman Don Juan Tenorio upsets the social order as he uses his charm and wit to rob women of their honor. However, after he seduces the daughter of a military commander, a duel ensues, and the commander dies.

In revenge, the statue of the slain commander has dinner with Don Juan, takes his hand and leads him to hell. Divine reason thus triumphs over human desire as order is once more restored to society.

Dr. **Ricardo Abad** directs.

OFFICIAL SINGERS (from left) Sandoval, Andaya, Defensor and Zubiri

CAMACHO hits a high note.

Camacho, solons sing!

THE WELFARE of soldiers and their families has encouraged other political personalities to take part in "Salute 2!," a concert that pays homage to men and women in uniform who have suffered loss of limb and even life to serve their country.

This time, the concert will also feature Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, housing czar Mike Defensor, Justice Undersecretary Mercy Gutierrez, and congressmen Juan Miguel Zubiri, Ace Barbers, Ricky Sandoval and Nonoy Andaya, also known as the "Spice Boys" of the House of Representatives.

But former Defense Secretary and now Ambassador-at-Large against Counterterrorism Angelo Reyes, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina will be the main stars of "Salute 2."

They will sing classical and pop favorites.

These "performers" rehearse late into the night and up to the early morning even after they have come from out-of-town trips or after a day of crafting serious legislation.

Joining the performance are professional singers Dulce and Ivy Violan.

The other performers in "Salute 2" are Mayor Marides Fernando, Tessie Reyes, Jenny Hernandez, Pipo Lina, George S. Tagle, the Solid Gold Dancers and the PMA Choral.

"Salute 2!" will be staged on Nov. 12, 7 p.m., at the Fiesta Pavilion Manila Hotel.

Its beneficiary will be the Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation Inc., a civic organization founded in 1986 by professionals to provide financial assistance to the families of soldiers who were either killed or critically wounded in combat.

"Salute 2!" is produced by Beth Sison-Tagle, with stage direction by Angie Magbanua and musical direction by Gerry Matias.

The fund-raiser will also help livelihood development programs for soldiers' spouses and the Doctor na Kawal Scholarship Program, which assists medical students willing to serve the AFP Medical Corps for five years.

For more information on "Salute 2," call 911-5615.

Retrospect performs in HK

THE RETRO pop band Retrospect, composed of Ogie, Gold, Em-J and J. Martin, will have a one of a kind concert today in Hong Kong, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Caritas Community Hall on Caine Road, together with Bong Aquino.

Retrospect started to become a household name in 1998 with its funky music, eclectic looks and unique performances.

It released its first self-titled album from Dyna Music the same year and popularized the songs "Chika Doo," "Party Time" and "Pag-ibig sa Tag-araw," among others.

Last year, it released its second CD album, from Harmony Music of Alpha Records, with "Bakit Nga Ba?"

The group is now finishing its first all-revival album, also from Harmony.

Today's Hong Kong show is presented by Data Town Ltd., headed by Alexandra Chan, as part of its first anniversary celebration, together with RCBC Global Club, with major sponsors Jollibee Hong Kong, B and S Tour & Travel, RCBC Savers Mart, Camella Homes, and Sketchers USA. For inquiries in Hong Kong, call 3106-4265, 2167-7400 or 2167-7410.

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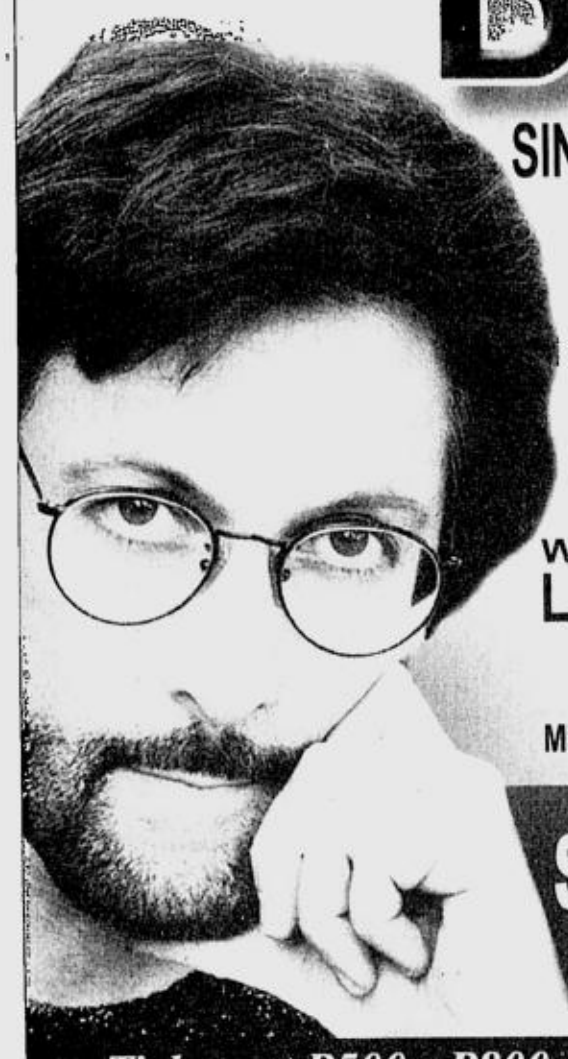

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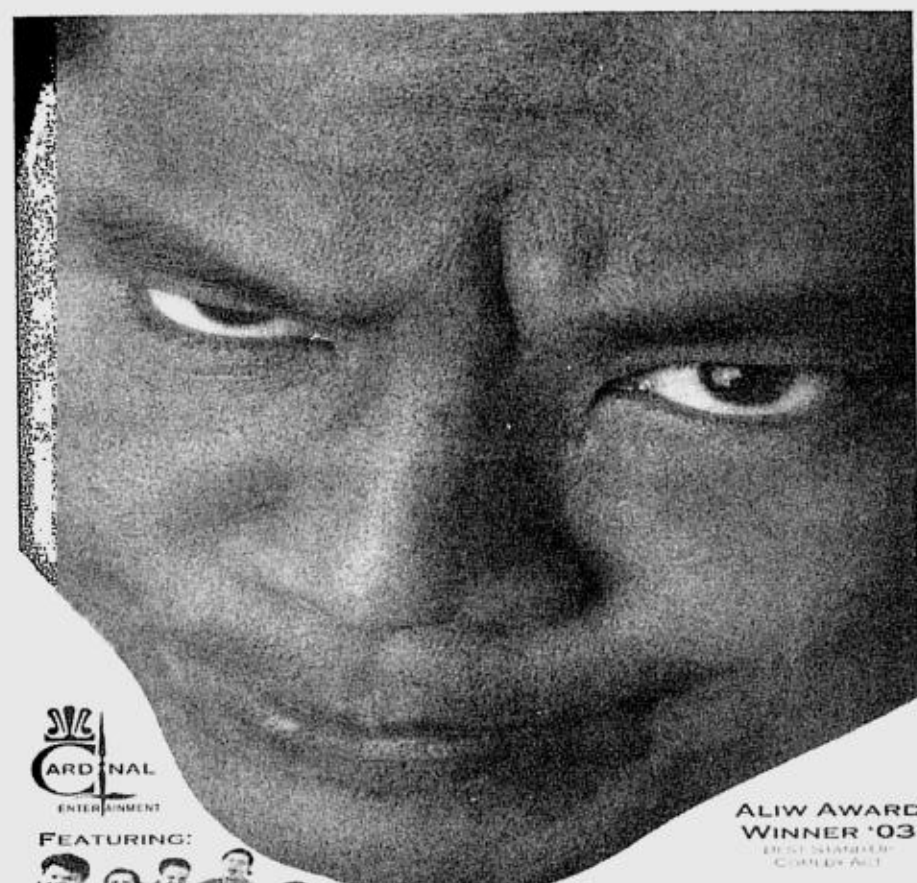

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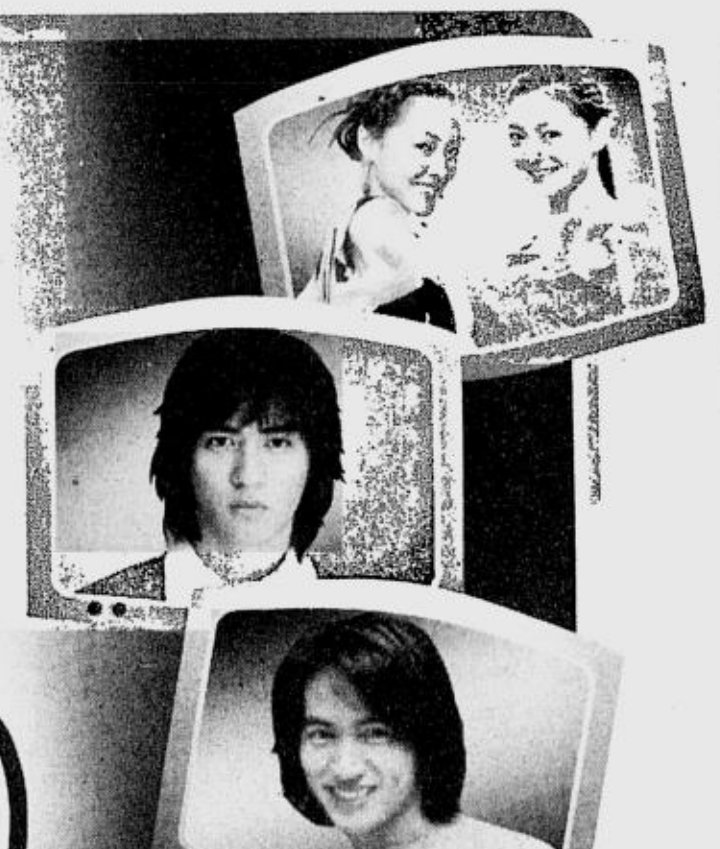

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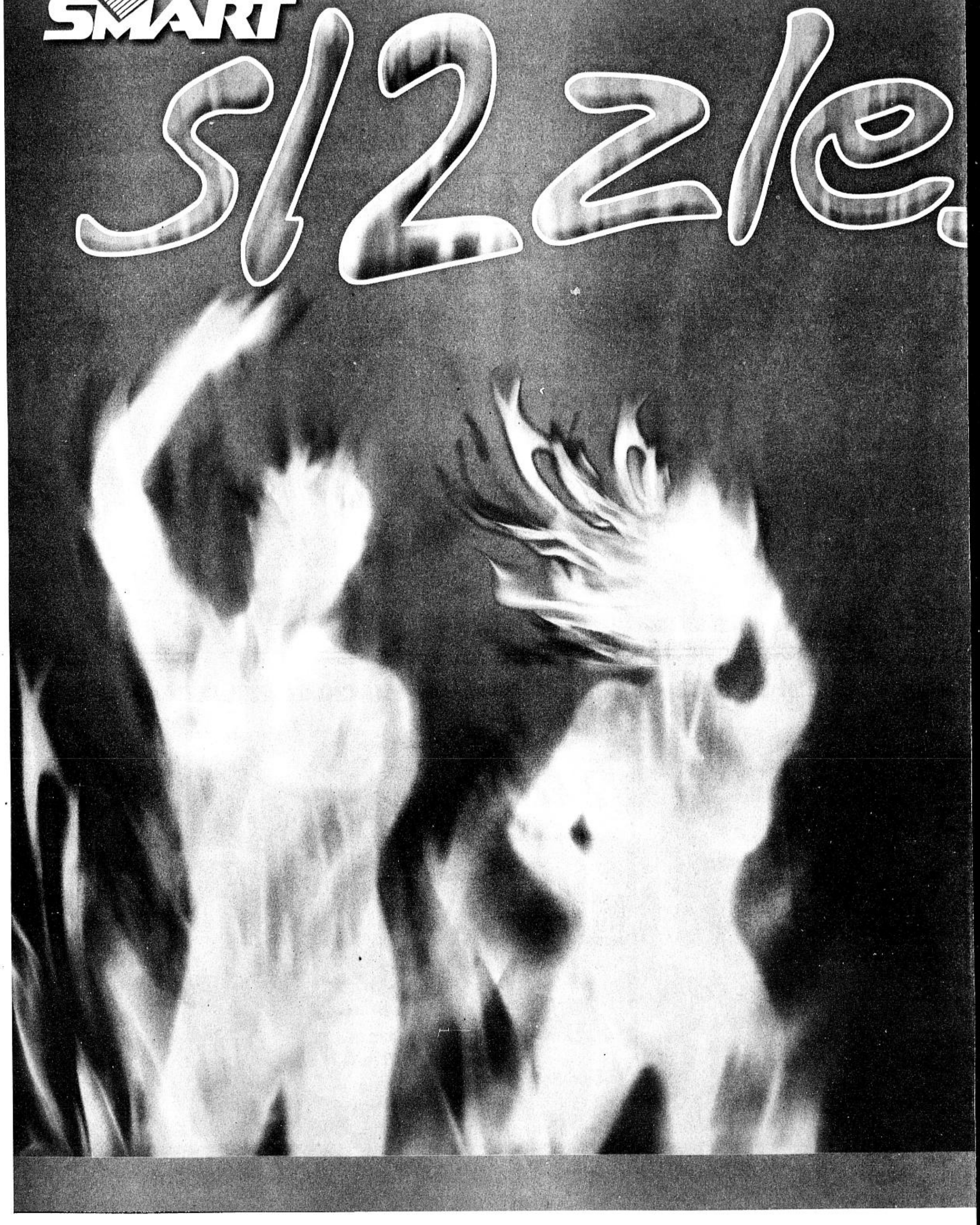
Buy a P500 ticket for a discounted price of P300 until November 2!

50 YEARS ABS-CBN TELEVISION SINCE 1953 · DZMM RADYO PATROL SAIS TRENTA · ABS-CBN WRR1019 For Life · myx · ABS-CBN

For igniting the passions of over 12 million subscri

SMART

SIZZLE.



In celebration of the over 12 million subscribers on the SM
It's our way of thanking the millions of subscribers who have a

Hot, Rare and Live!

The temperature begins to rise on November 21 at The Fort Grounds as SMART gives you the chance to see international pop sensation **MANDY MOORE.**

For more info, just text MUSIC to 209.

Gates open at 4:00pm.

MANILA

Pamaskong Aliwan
Fiesta ng mga Parol
Bazaars • Live Concerts • Fireworks
December 4 to 6, Star City, CCP Complex, Manila

Early bird SMART subscribers get VIP seats on the December 6 grand show.

TARLAC

True Faith sa Ta
November 29, IW
San Miguel, Tarla

SIM Swap to the S
Wireless Center a
November 10 to 2

Watch out for more blazing parties ar

*The SMART Network serves SMAR

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bers, we present

ART Network*, we are throwing the hottest parties across the nation!
allowed us to fire up their lives with the hottest innovations and services.

rlac
/SP Gym,
ac.

MART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 at the Tarlac
nd get a free ticket: Promo duration is from
5.

DAVAO
The Venue Anniversary
Blow Out Party with Pops Fernandez
November 15, The Venue, Davao City.

SIM Swap to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 in any of these SMART Wireless Centers and get a free ticket: SM City Davao, Davao Landco and Davao Gaisano. Promo duration is from November 5 to 14.

d fiery events as things get hotter and hotter with SMART S12zles!

SMART
Simply Amazing!

T Buddy, SMART Gold, Addict Mobile, Talk N' Text and SMART ACeS subscribers.

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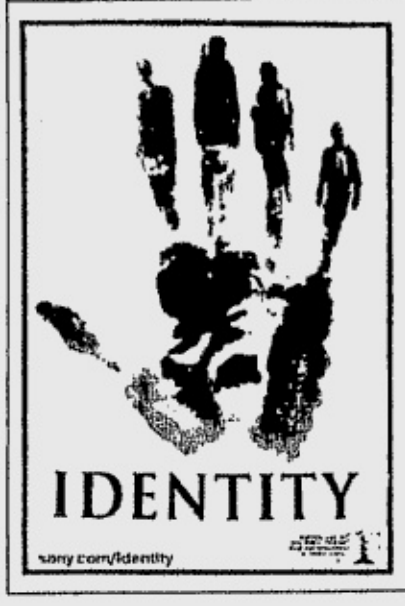
MTRCB RATING ▶ R —18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



Special Halloween Presentation!

A SMART, SCARY THRILLER

What if every choice we make was already decided for us? What if there really were no coincidences in life and our destinies were already predetermined?

From the producer of the SCREAM movies, comes IDENTITY, a smart, mind- bending thriller with a disturbing twist.

Ten strangers with secrets are brought together in a motel on a rainstorm. A limo driver (John Cusack), an '80s TV star (Rebecca DeMornay), a cop (Ray Liotta) who is transporting a killer (Jake Busey), a call girl (Amanda Peet), a pair of newlyweds and a family in crisis, all take shelter at a desolate motel run by a nervous night manager.

Relief in finding shelter is quickly replaced with spine-chilling fear as the 10 travelers die, one by one. They soon realize that, if they are to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them all together.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB ▶ R-13

Alternative treatments on 'Natural Healing'

"THE POWER of Natural Healing," hosted by Dyan Castillejo-Garcia, today features Filipinos who undergo integrated and alternative treatments for various ailments.

The ABS-CBN Foundation show on ANC 21 takes a look at an herbal cocktail for rock musician Cowboy Santos, whose life was threatened by dengue. Cowboy, the son of Pinoy rock legend Sampaguita, was hospitalized after suffering a second, and deadly, attack of dengue. Doctors called for an immediate blood transfusion. Would an herbal drink from Cowboy's sister boost his blood cells in time to thwart the need for a transfusion?

Guests Jimmy Dy-Liacco and Dr. Chat Austria also focus on other patients like a plastics company CEO who suffers from heart blockage and arthritis. The businessman's problems are compounded by mercury, a poisonous metal, in his system, caused by a careless dental procedure with his tooth filling.

The show is directed by Cesar Celestino.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MY FIRST ROMANCE
B	MAPUPULANG LABI
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	MAPUPULANG LABI
CINEMA-3	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BELPHEGOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-7	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-8	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-12	SPY
CINEMA-14	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	INNER SENSES
CINEMA-4	MATCHSTICK MEN

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
Ali 2	MAPUPULANG LABI
Ali 3	THE SPY
Ali 4	RUNDOWN
Ali 5	IDENTITY
Ali 6	UPTOWN GIRL
Ali 7	MY FIRST TOMANCE

ARANETA COLISEUM

NOV 2	PBA: SHELL VS. PUREFOODS
NOV 9	PBA GAMES
NOV 10	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 12	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 14	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY

Opens Dec. 23 DISNEY ON ICE "Beauty & The Beast"

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a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 — THE RUNDOWN 11:35, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 P13

CINEMA 2 — THE SPY 11:35, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:40 P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

NOV 7	"SEX IN THE CITY" PRICILLA ALMEDA & AUBREY MILES	9:00PM
NOV 11	"RE-LOADED" NYOY VOLANTE & MANNOS	9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-9726 OR 721-0635

Goma would rather have...

From page C1

having more children would make his family complete. After all, he can afford it.

"I'm okay," he said, "but I'm not a multi-millionaire. People might think I'm so rich already. I can afford only one car for me and one car for my wife."

Even if a political post is no longer in his mind, Richard is still active in his anti-drug advocacy. As the MAD spokesperson, he travels around the country talking against the evils of drug abuse.

"I think our campaign against drugs was the most successful one in the country," he said. "Through this advocacy, we can at least lessen the drug problem. It has really grown out of proportion, and the government seems not to be doing anything about it."

In an industry where drug abuse is rampant, Richard has apparently kept himself dope-free.

"I have never tried drugs," he claimed. "Ever since I was young, I have been into sports and that's what kept me off drugs. I'm the type who's always competitive, who always wants to win, and who's very aggressive. So the discipline is always there.

"I have lots of friends who've tried drugs and lost it. But drug abuse in the movie industry is still controllable. It's only magnified because the people known to be into drugs are popular figures. But if you look at the problem on a bigger scale, it's more prevalent among the masses."

Too young with too much money was how he explained why some movie personalities have indulged in drugs.

"Imagine a teenager earning millions," he said. "That's the problem of the industry. While we cannot do anything about their earnings, we can make them realize that if they turn to drugs, they might just lose everything overnight."

Richard has been in the business for 16 years, and he has seen a lot of younger actors come and go.

"Some actors become popular for a couple of months, then they just fade away," he observed. "I think I came at a time when show biz was in need of a leading man other than the usual mestizo like (the late) Alfie Anido and Gabby Concepcion. I was tall and very dark, so I was different. Now, new actors come and go by the dozen. The turnover is so fast.

"I think, Aga Mulach and I are the only ones who are still here. Of course, there's Boyet de Leon."

His crossover to television has also apparently helped him maintain his popularity. Even with three TV shows, one of them a telenovela, Richard does not think he's over-exposed.

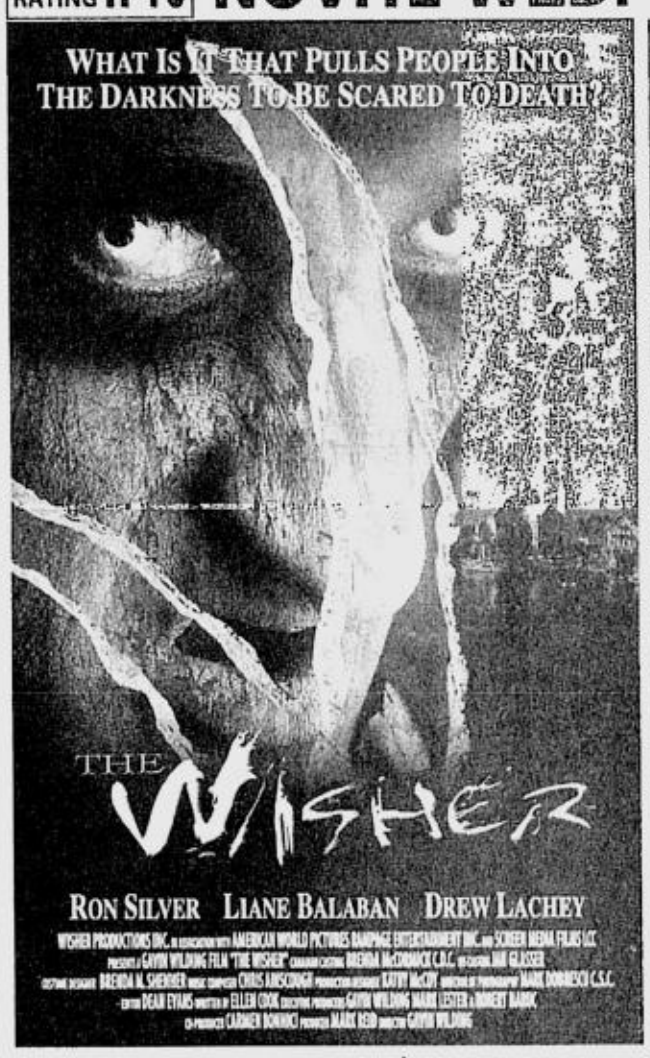
"I'm happy with my TV job," he said. "I just want to have at least three shows to keep me busy. The only thing hard is when I'm doing a drama on TV and also doing a drama movie; the genre is the same. Something will be sacrificed, like some people would say, 'I've seen that act already.'"

He says he wants to do two movies a year, "but good movies, like 'Filipinas.'"

He still has his dreams, like going to Hollywood.

"That's every actor's dream," he said. "But as a man, I can't ask for more."

MTRCB RATING R-13 **NOV.12 WED.**



COMING VERY SOON!

NO. 1 GHOST MOVIE IN ASIA!

TERRIFYING AUDIENCES IN EVERY CITY TO THEIR EXTREME SHOCK!!

WARNING: THIS FILM SO FRIGHTENING YOU MIGHT GIVE UP WATCHING HALFWAY THROUGH... SO WE DARE YOU TO FINISH IT ALIVE!!!

THE GRUDGE

JU-ON

Starring OKINA MEGUMI ITO MISAKI UEHARA MISA ICHIKAWA YUI
Produce by TAKA ICHISE Creative Consultants TAKAHASHI KUROSAWA KIYOSHI
Cinematography by KIKUURA TOKUSHO Lighting Director TOMIYAMA MEICHO
Art Director TOKIWA TOSHIHARU Sound Mixer KOMATSU MASATO
Edited by TAKAHASHI NOBUYUKI Music by SATO SHIRO
Visual Effects Suprvisor Matsumoto Hajime
Theme Song "Let Me In" by SUITEI SHOJO Written and Directed by SHIMIZU TAKASHI

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OPENS NOV. 5, STARTING 10 PM AT AYALA CINEMAS

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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

AYALA CINEMAS

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OPENS NOVEMBER 5, STARTING 10 PM

TILL DAWN

GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

SCREENING SCHEDULE FOR NOV. 5
Cinema 1 (THX) - 11:00 pm, 1:45 am
Cinema 2 (THX) - 10:00 pm, 12:45 am
Cinema 3 - 12:00 mn, 2:45 am
Cinema 4 - 11:30 pm, 2:15 am
Cinema 5 - 10:30 pm, 1:15 am

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE AT THE GREENBELT 3 CINEMA TICKETBOOTH.

OR LOG TO www.sureseats.com FOR WEB RESERVATION.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

AYALA CINEMAS

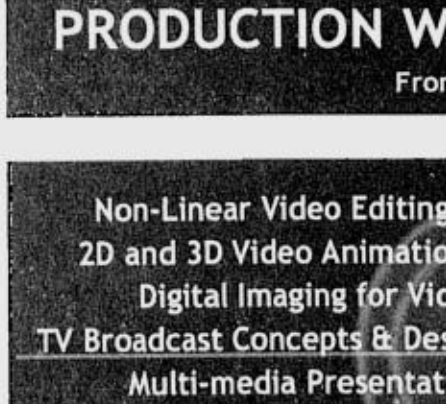
AYALA CINEMAS

THE ONLY THING WHITE IS THE HOUSE

HAIL TO THE CHIEF OF COMEDY

"CHRIS ROCK rules!
--- Fox News Channel

HEAD *of* STATE



Chris Rock stars as Mays Gilliam, a Washington D.C. neighborhood Alderman, who's about to be red-lined out of his job. But after the untimely death of the party frontrunner, Gilliam is plucked from obscurity and thrust into the limelight as his party's nominee -- for President of the United States.

"HILARIOUS!"
--- Washington Post

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 1 & 4 GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

united international pictures

VIVA

SHOW TIME

Hot nights at Dish

NOVEMBER'S chilly nights bring hot times at Dish, on the third level of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati City.

Monday nights have Hyperbeat (Nov. 3, 10, 17 and 24). Ladies get free entrance plus a free drink on these nights.

Tuesday nights bring Rockin' Revival (Nov. 4) and Spirit of '67 (Nov. 11, 18 and 25) with hits from the '60s and the '70s.

Wednesdays have R&B princess Nina and her brother King performing with Elements (Nov. 12); Arnee Hidalgo (Nov. 19); and "Wave Back Wednesday" (Nov. 26) with acoustic masters Paolo Santos, Jimmy Bondoc and Akafellas.

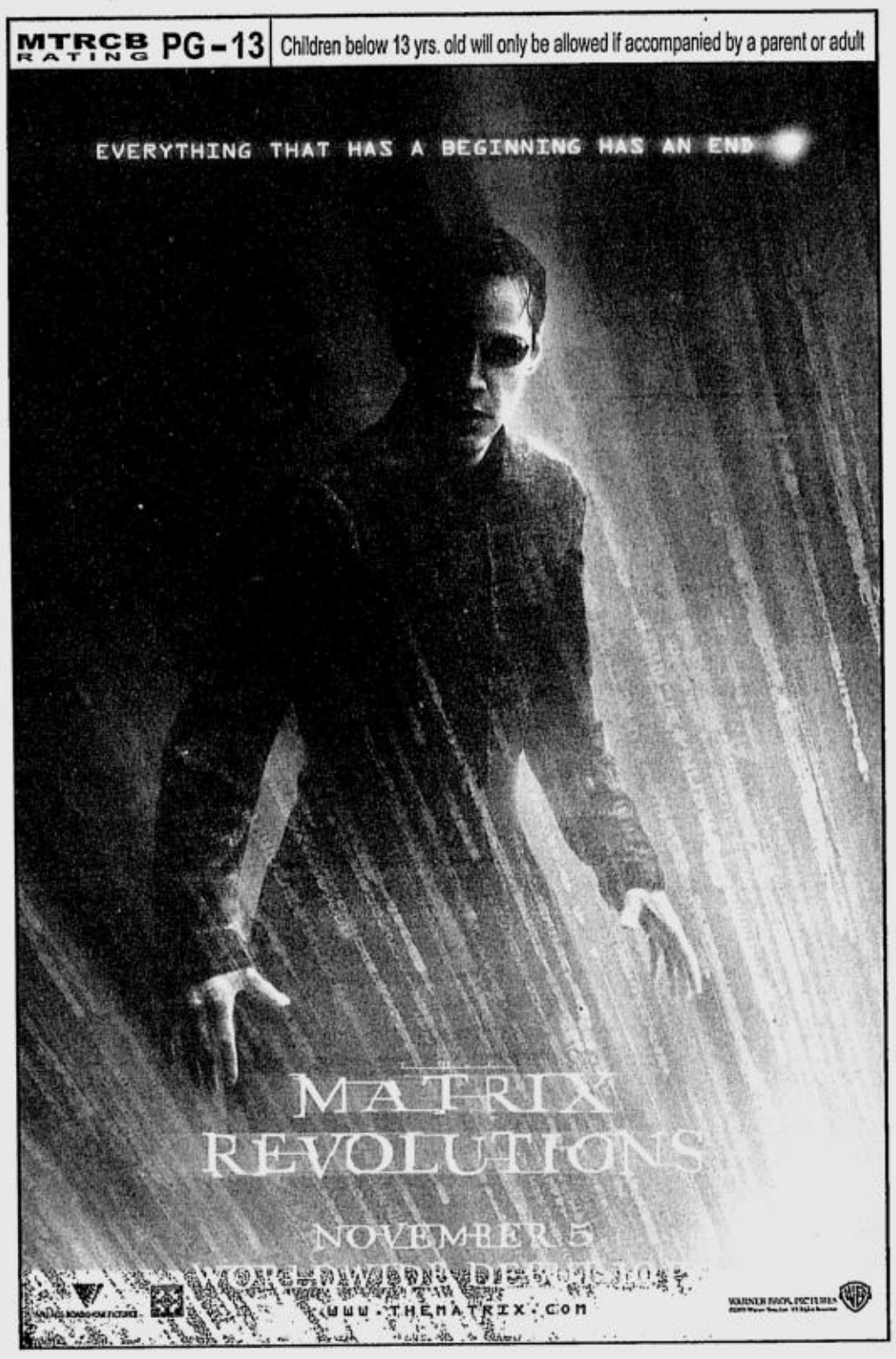
Thursdays have Jimmy Bondoc with Essence Band, back to back with sultry siren Mocha and Spin Art (Nov. 6 and 13); and January Summer (Nov. 20 and 27).

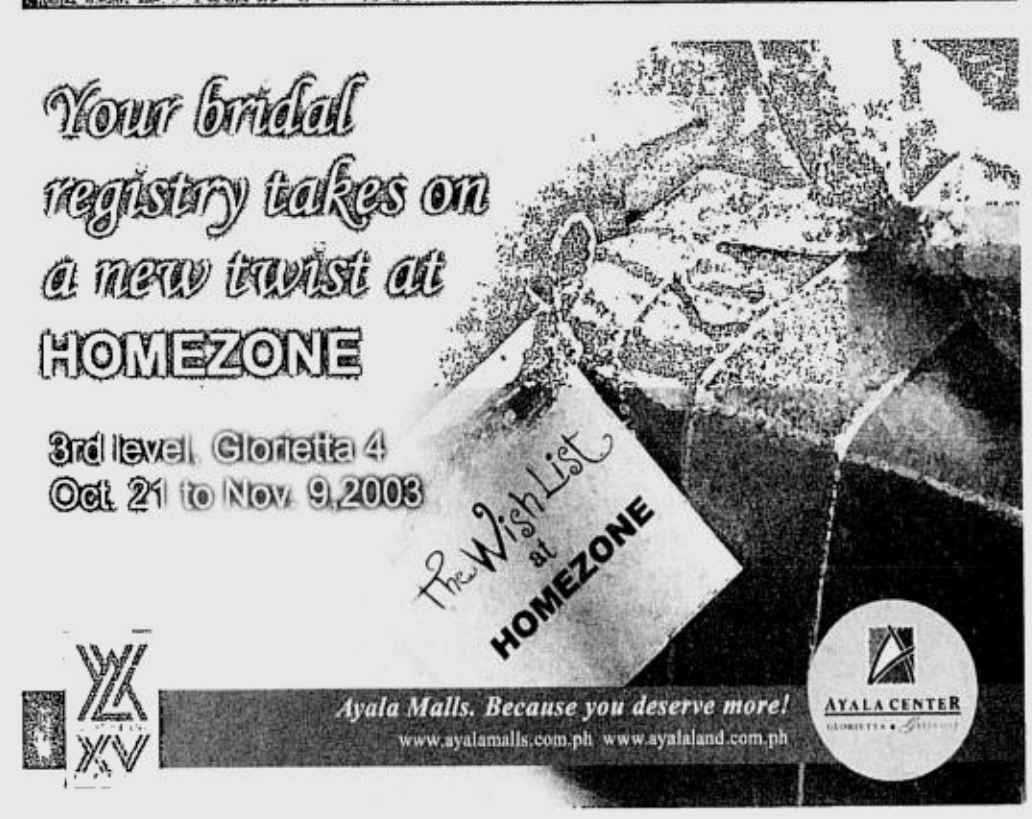
Fridays offer Jay-R singing back to back with acoustic duo January Summer (Nov. 7), South Border (Nov. 14), and Isprikitik (Nov. 21 and 28).

Saturdays are special with the new all-girl band Flavours with Spin Art; back to back with Blow and Diether Ocampo (Nov. 8), Rage (Nov. 15), and Pido with Take 1 (Nov. 22).

Sundays are for the entire family, with "magical" treats.

For inquiries, call 898-1771 or 898-1824.





ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE	1 UPTOWN GIRLS	ArtFilm 1 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 IDENTITY 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	THX 1 UPTOWN GIRLS
2 UPTOWN GIRLS	2 IDENTITY		THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 UPTOWN GIRLS 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 PHONE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE RUNDOWN 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	2 UPTOWN GIRLS 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HEAD OF THE STATE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	3 IDENTITY
4 THE RUNDOWN	4 THE SPY	Onstage	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE RUNDOWN 12:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00	4 THE SPY
	5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 MY FIRST ROMANCE 12:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40	5 THE RUNDOWN
	6 MY FIRST ROMANCE			
	7 HEAD OF THE STATE			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest Festival Cinema (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) THE SPY
2 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS) MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
5 (DOLBY EX) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 (SDDS) IDENTITY
7 (DOLBY EX) UPTOWN GIRLS
8 MY FIRST ROMANCE
9 THE PHONE
10 FREAKY FRIDAY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana Cinema 1 2 3 (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 MAPUPULANG LABI

Starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 BELPHEGOR
3 MAPUPULANG LABI
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE RUNDOWN
5 BUGBOG SARADO

Metropolis Star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 THE SPY
2 MAPUPULANG LABI
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 UTANG NG AMA
6 IDENTITY

Star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 BELPHEGOR
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE

Premiere Cinema (Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MEDALLION
2 FREAKY FRIDAY

FCM Fairview Center Mall Inc tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 KERIDA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

Gotesco Cinema

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 MAPUPULANG LABI
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 (DTS) IDENTITY
8 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
9 (DOLBY) THE SPY

Gotesco Caloocan tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364-3781
1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
5 UTANG NG AMA
6 (DOLBY) IDENTITY
7 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
8 BUGBOG SARADO
9 KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0082
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (SDDS) BELPHEGOR
3 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DOLBY) UTANG NG AMA
5 MAPUPULANG LABI

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS) VISIBLE SECRET-2
4 MAPUPULANG LABI
5 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson Lords Jennet: TELE OF EROTICK, MAPUPULANG LABI, RESERVE

Marketplace Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 IDENTITY
3 MAPUPULANG LABI
4

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
Super Cinerama tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) THE SPY
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 RESERVE
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 MAPUPULANG LABI

FRC Cinema (Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta
Mall Cineplex 7 tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THE SPY
4 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
5 (DTS) IDENTITY
6 MAPUPULANG LABI
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE

Farmers Plaza Cinemas tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Cinema 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926
1 KATAS
2 FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BELPHEGOR
2 (DTS) MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS) AMERICAN PSYCHO
4 BELPHEGOR

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 MEDALLION
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 BELPHEGOR
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS) MY FIRST ROMANCE

Magic Star Cinema (Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 KIKAY
3 (DTS) UTANG NG AMA
4 MAPUPULANG LABI

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 AMERICAN PSYCHO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 INNER SENSES

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
MATCHSTICK MEN
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS) MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 (DOLBY)

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045)887-5801 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) THE RUNDOWN
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS-ES) UTANG NG AMA
4 BUGBOG SARADO

Cine Nepo Mall (Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

Festival Cinema Level 4
Festival Supermall Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

IDENTITY
NOW SHOWING

ENTERTAINMENT

'Sensuality workshop' pays off for Christian, Francine

By Marinel R. Cruz

EVEN before she shot her first bold movie, newcomer Francine Prieto has been used to showing a lot of skin as a model. But it took her and co-star Christian Vasquez four hours to shoot their kissing scene in Seiko Films' "Liberated," directed by Mac Alejandre.

Both actors agree that shooting love scenes is not at all enjoyable.

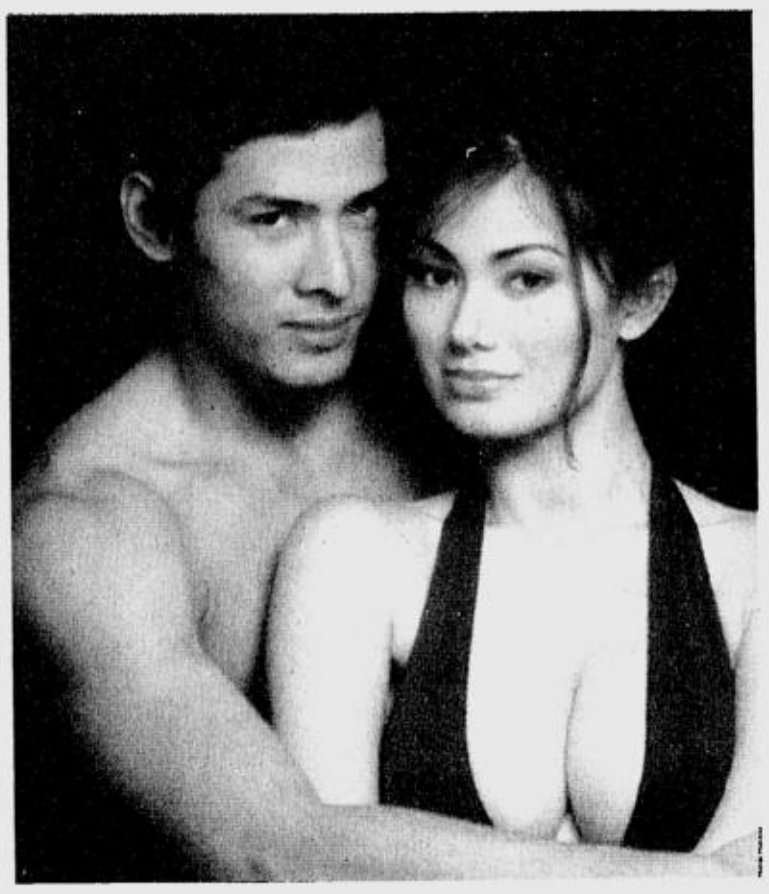
"I didn't know that love scenes were one of the most difficult sequences to shoot," said Christian during a press lunch in Quezon City. "You don't just kiss your partner. It has to be realistic and must move the audience into believing that you and your partner really feel something for each other."

Francine said the "sensuality workshop" that she and Christian had undergone with their co-stars Diana Zubiri and Rodel Velayo last May had greatly improved her performance. The four actors were all naked during the workshop, which became controversial after the participants learned that the sessions were being filmed on video by a staff member of Seiko.

But everything is now okay between the actors and Seiko, said Francine.

"Because of the workshop, we're not too self-conscious anymore," she said. "We know how to kiss in front of the camera."

Christian said the heat from klieg lights made him perspire profusely, making the shooting more complicated. His character was also chained to a bed, and this made it more difficult for the actor who was unable to move freely during the take.



HOT SHOTS. Christian had to be "plastered" and chained to a bed, but Francine learned "how to kiss in front of the camera."

"I felt so uncomfortable," said Christian. "I felt that I was already soaking my partner with my sweat."

But Christian would rather sweat during a love scene than urinate during a shooting break. His private parts had been covered with plaster for the sex scenes.

"It was painful to take the plaster off every time I had to pee," he said.

'That's' graduates

"Liberated" is a take on life, love and sex from the point of view of young adults. Christian plays Tony, a painter who thinks sex is something to be enjoyed. He is in a romantic relationship with Francine, who plays Trixie, but is also involved with Pauline (Diana Zubiri). Both women are best friends.

"Trixie is Pauline's exact opposite," said Francine. "I'm a lot like Trixie in real life, conservative, a one-man woman."

Francine, Anna Marie Falcon in real life, first appeared in the movie "Batang Narda" when she was 9. She was also on "That's Entertainment," with batchmates Ara Mina, Patricia Javier and Maricar de Mesa—all of whom have shed their "wholesome" image and also became sexy stars.

Seiko has signed up Francine to a four-year, eight-picture contract. She and Christian are also in "Bridal Shower," Seiko's entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

Christian was a part-time fashion and commercial model and a former flight steward. He also appeared in television commercials and is best remembered as the Ilonggo guy in PLDT's "Suportahan ta ka" commercial.

He was also in the cast of ABS-CBN shows "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" and "Attagirl."

He is also in Sen. John Osmeña's weekly program "May Puso ang Batas" on Channel 9 with Boots Anson-Roa and Gary Estrada.

A lot to learn

"It's hard to say if I would last long in this business," said Christian. "But I really want to stay. In fact, I don't know where I'd be if I'm not in show biz right now.

"I did not take the airline job seriously. And I only accepted modeling jobs because I thought there was a lot of money in being a commercial model. I was wrong. You don't get paid right away."

But with movie offers coming his way, Christian is now able to pay for his two sons' education. Matthew, 6, and Jason, 5, live with Christian's parents in Bacolod. Their mother is now in the States, said Christian.

"I live with my cousins in Parañaque," he said. "I visit my sons in Bacolod during their birthdays, Christmas and New Year's Day."

Both Christian and Francine said they still have a lot to learn as actors. But they also dream of becoming talented actors whose work would be recognized by award-giving bodies.

"Acting is a lot more challenging than modeling," said Francine.

For Christian, it's the satisfaction from acting that he relishes. "So far, I like all the roles that Seiko has been giving me," he said. "Good roles give a deeper meaning to being an actor."

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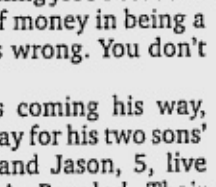
JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon



Ms Maglipon's column will be back next Sunday

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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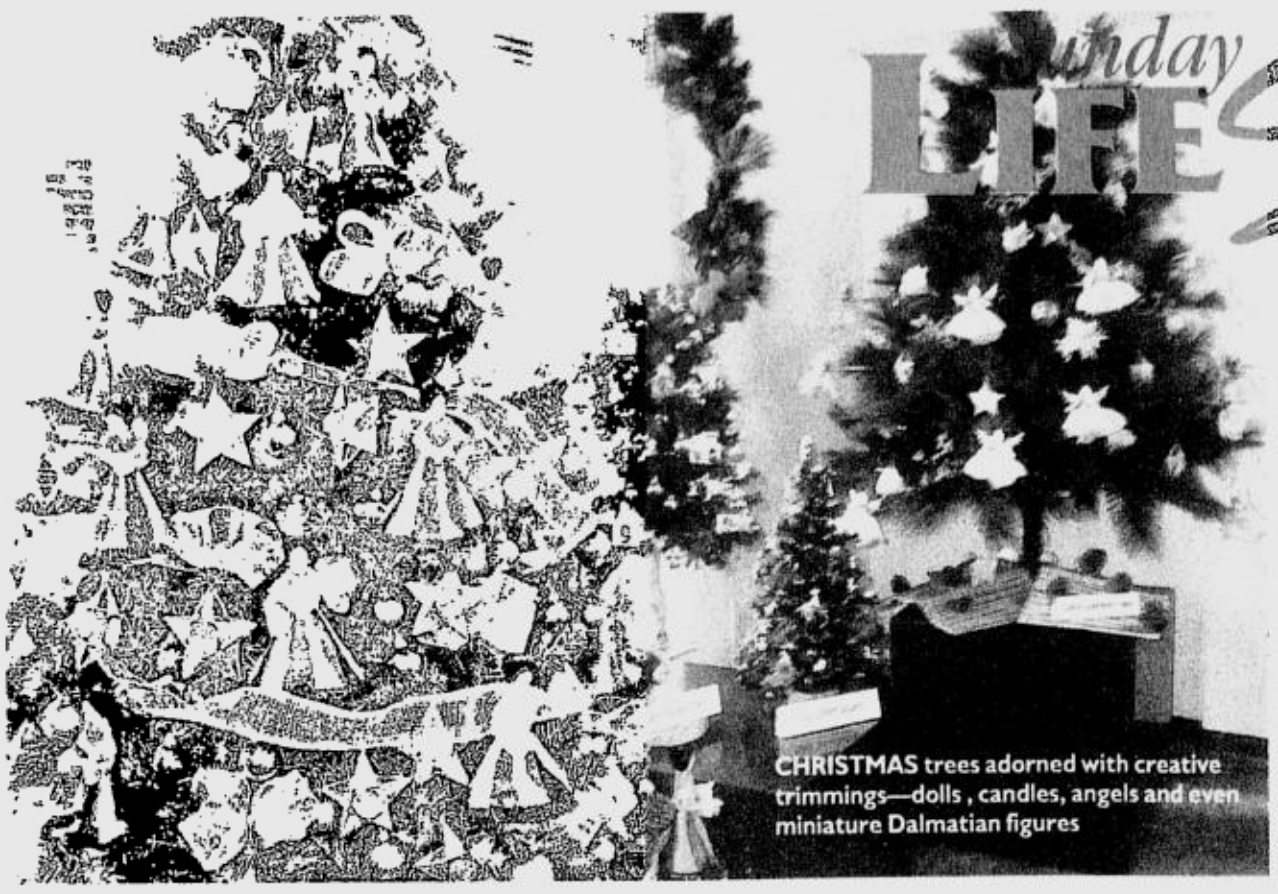
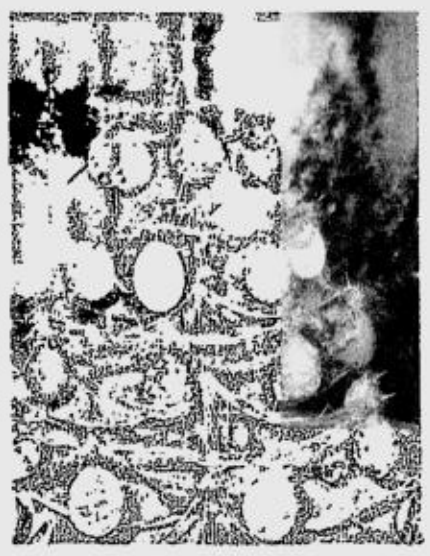
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**



CHRISTMAS trees adorned with creative trimmings—dolls , candles, angels and even miniature Dalmatian figures

A gift lovely as a tree



AN OPULENT version of a Christmas tree decorated with gold trimmings and meticulously hand-painted eggs

By Rowena C. Burgos

THE HOLIDAY season is filled with parties, decorations, delicious food and a general sense that something special is about to happen.

The festive mood also gives many of us a feeling that we should do more to help the less fortunate.

The Festival of Trees brings all these elements together in a bid to help disadvantaged fisherfolk and farmer communities in Maqueda Bay, Samar.

Organized by the Makati Garden Club (MGC) and Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the 9th Festival of Trees opts for nostalgia with a Spanish theme as it presents the Maria Clara Ball on Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m., at Manila Polo Club, Makati.

Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, MGC chair and PBSP president, says the ladies of MGC will be dressed in Filipiniana gowns as they bring back turn-of-the-20th century glamour and grace. Nonoy Lopez and his band will provide entertainment.

Theme trees and artworks

As a tradition, decorated Christmas trees done by MGC officers and members will be included in the silent auction.

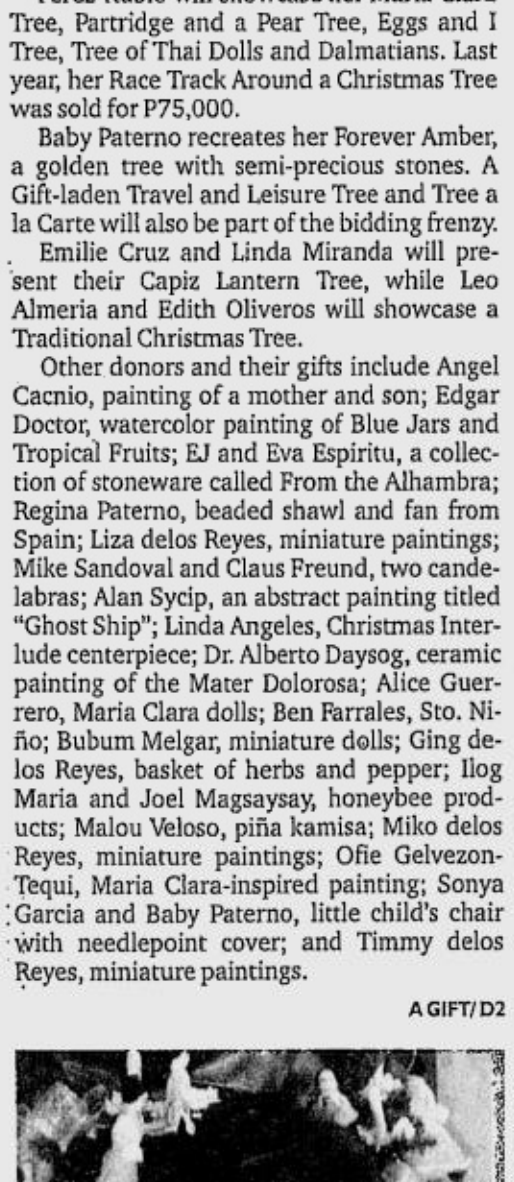
Perez-Rubio will showcase her Maria Clara Tree, Partridge and a Pear Tree, Eggs and I Tree, Tree of Thai Dolls and Dalmatians. Last year, her Race Track Around a Christmas Tree was sold for P75,000.

Baby Paterno recreates her Forever Amber, a golden tree with semi-precious stones. A Gift-laden Travel and Leisure Tree and Tree a la Carte will also be part of the bidding frenzy.

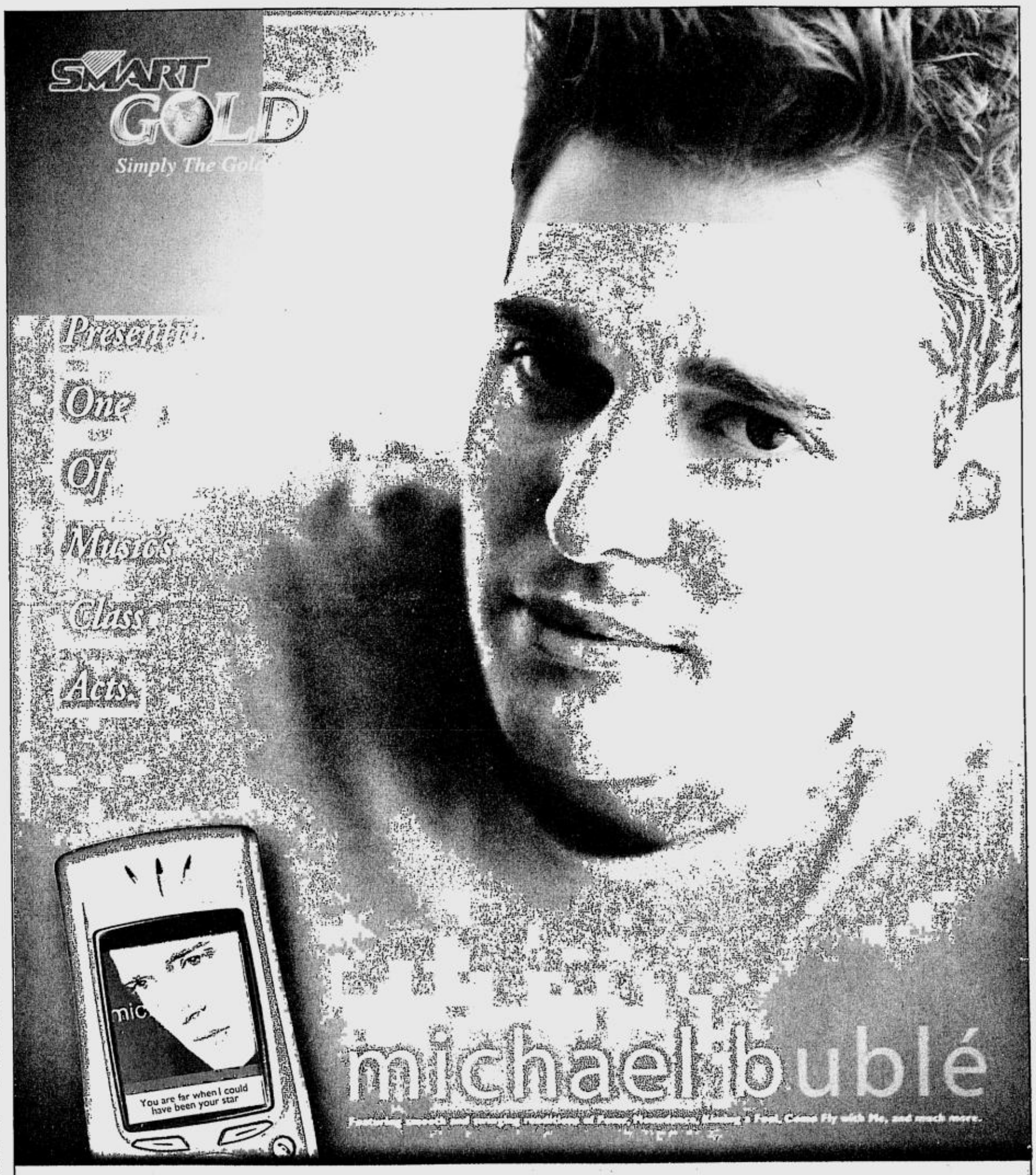
Emilie Cruz and Linda Miranda will present their Capiz Lantern Tree, while Leo Almeria and Edith Oliveros will showcase a Traditional Christmas Tree.

Other donors and their gifts include Angel Cacnio, painting of a mother and son; Edgar Doctor, watercolor painting of Blue Jars and Tropical Fruits; EJ and Eva Espiritu, a collection of stoneware called From the Alhambra; Regina Paterno, beaded shawl and fan from Spain; Liza delos Reyes, miniature paintings; Mike Sandoval and Claus Freund, two candelabras; Alan Sycip, an abstract painting titled "Ghost Ship"; Linda Angeles, Christmas Interlude centerpiece; Dr. Alberto Daysog, ceramic painting of the Mater Dolorosa; Alice Guerrero, Maria Clara dolls; Ben Farrales, Sto. Niño; Bubum Melgar, miniature dolls; Ging delos Reyes, basket of herbs and pepper; Ilog Maria and Joel Magsaysay, honeybee products; Malou Veloso, piña kamisa; Miko delos Reyes, miniature paintings; Ofie Gelvezon-Tequi, Maria Clara-inspired painting; Sonya Garcia and Baby Paterno, little child's chair with needlepoint cover; and Timmy delos Reyes, miniature paintings.

A GIFT/ D2



MARIA Luisa Perez-Rubio, president of the Makati Garden Club and the Philippine Business for Social Progress, and chair of the 9th Festival of Trees-Maria Clara Ball



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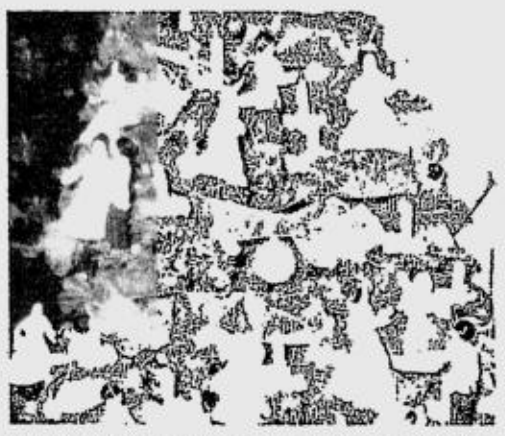
THE LADIES of the Makati Garden Club: Fe Panlilio, Melinda Zeña Rosa, Regina Paterno, Ching Caluag, Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, Nene Mathay, Linda Minonda; (back) Albertine Santi, Jovie Bunao, Ruby Roa, Flor Tariela, Baby Paterno, Glory Alcuaz, Ging de los Reyes and Emilie Cruz

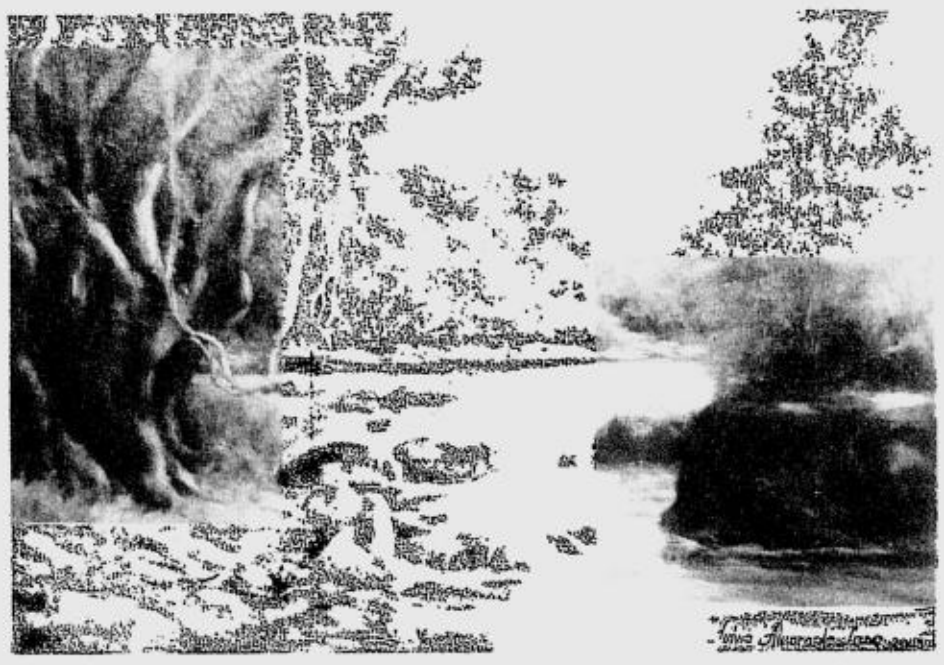


THIS Christmas tree is decorated with dolls garbed in Filipiniana finery.

The annual Festival of Trees aims to help disadvantaged fisherfolk and farmer communities in Maqueda Bay, Samar, improve their lives

A gift lovely as a tree

From page D1



AMONG the artworks to be auctioned at the festival is this exquisite Fernando Amorsolo painting donated by the late artist's heirs.

ARTIST Emilio Doctor designed the 9th Festival of Trees logo and generously contributed artworks for the charity event.

These gifts will all be part of the bidding.

A painting of world-renowned artist Anita Magsaysay-Ho, who has supported the festival in the last four years, will once again be the highlight of the auction.

Last year, the Festival of Trees was able to raise P6.5 million. This year, Perez-Rubio says, MGC and PBSP are targeting the P10 million mark.

Commitment

Beyond the dinner-dance and auction, the Festival of Trees is a commitment that has generated not just funds but also awareness, partnership and hope for those who have less.

"No amount of words can describe the positive change in the lives of the people of Maqueda Bay in Samar," Perez-Rubio says.

Through various marine and agricultural livelihood projects of PBSP's Samar Resource Management Program, more than 500 families have increased their monthly incomes, ranging from P3,000 to P5,000.

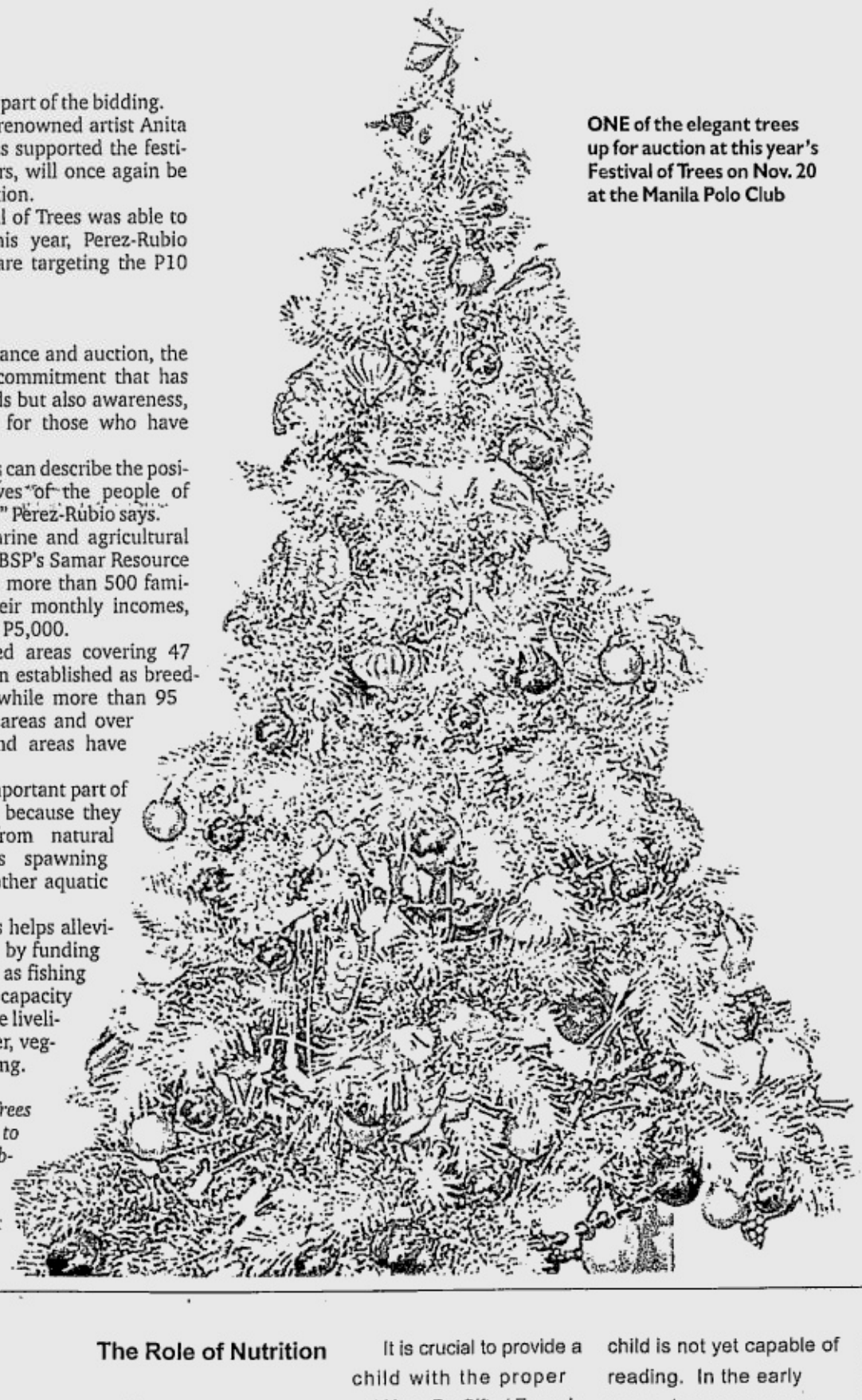
Six marine protected areas covering 47 hectares have also been established as breeding grounds for fish, while more than 95 hectares of mangrove areas and over 400 hectares of upland areas have been reforested.

Mangroves are an important part of the marine ecosystem because they provide protection from natural forces and serve as spawning grounds for fish and other aquatic fauna.

The Festival of Trees helps alleviate poverty in the area by funding various programs such as fishing technology transfer, capacity building and alternative livelihoods such as cutflower, vegetable and coffee farming.

Call the Festival of Trees Secretariat at 5277741 to 51 or e-mail fot@pbsp.org.ph.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



ONE of the elegant trees up for auction at this year's Festival of Trees on Nov. 20 at the Manila Polo Club

Nurturing the Gift

As early as the child's first year of life, signs of giftedness may already be apparent.

From the moment of birth, a baby's world of development and growth becomes of great interest to his parents. For the first time, parents begin to see the wonder of the progress the baby makes. What parents must do is look closely and observe these developments in order to help nurture their child's potential to the fullest.

Could Your Child be Gifted?

Identifying gifted children is a continuous and sometimes difficult process — even more so in infancy. Some of the earliest signs of giftedness may include unusual alertness, long concentration span, high activity level and extraordinary memory. These babies may also smile or recognize caretakers early and pass through developmental stages earlier than average. They may have intense reactions to noise, pain and frustration; respond actively to visual stimulation (i.e. pictures) and stories; get easily bored with routine and in turn seek out and enjoy new experiences. In infancy, gifted children may also have high a degree of curiosity and a fascination with books.

The Role of Nutrition

To help bring out a child's gift, it is best for parents to start nurturing their child during early infancy. Good nutrition is vital in the first 18 months of a child's life. The right nutritional start will help determine a child's physical and mental development for the years to come. Even before birth and during the early years of a child's life, most of his organs and tissues, blood, brain and bones are formed. Also, his intellectual and physical potential are shaped at this time.

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Nurture the Gift

A child learns first from his parents. Parents who spend time with their child are more able to tune in to their child's interests. In turn, parents can encourage their child to pursue a wide variety of interests such as art, nature, music and sports. It is also important that parents read to their child frequently, even when the child is not yet capable of reading. In the early years, home exposure and support of interests are vital to the development of talents.

A child's gift may also only reveal itself when he encounters an experience, which taps a latent interest or ability. So whatever activity or hobby a child pursues, the best thing that a parent can do is to support, love and nurture him.

Sources:
1. Unicef 2003
2. Silverman, L. K., How Parents Can Support Gifted Children, ERIC Bulletin, October, 1992, a publication of The Council for Exceptional Children.

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Spanish cultural festival goes south

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

HIS excellency **Don Ignacio Sagaz**, Spain's Ambassador to the Philippines, and his lovely wife **Sra. Aurora Lapuz de Sagaz**, recently came for the Casino Español de Cebu's Dia de la Hispanidad.

With them was **Javier Galvan**, director of Instituto Cervantes in Manila and a frequent visitor in Cebu.

Before the celebrations started, there was a preview of the imposing new structure that will house the Casino Español in early 2004. The basement parking, several floors, walls and a lot more are already in place.

Casino Español president **Edmundo Misa** welcomed Ambassador Sagaz and Sr. Galvan, as did the vice president, **Manuel Guanzon**, who is in charge of the committee within the board.

Also joining the welcome party were former president **Luis Moro**, who is now director of cultural activities, **Jose Sala**, who is also with the building design committee, and other officers like secretary **Edgar Gica**, treasurer **Angel Veloso**, house chair **Bunny Pages** and sports director **Michael Miranda**, who gave his cell phone more than an occasional glance.

The reason? His wife, **Ruth**, was delivering their second daughter at that moment.

Witty homily

The actual observance was held at 6 p.m. at the temporary quarters of Casino Español in the Garcia-Escaño mansion. Ambassador and Mrs. Sagaz were in places of honor during the mass officiated by Msgr. **Achilles Dakay**, who gave an emotive as well as witty homily.

On display was a replica of a statue of Our Lady of the Pillar as venerated in Zaragosa, Spain. Around it were masses of white flowers sent in by devotee **Edwina Johnston Veloso.**

After the mass, there was brief program, during which Ed Misa made a toast to Spain and Ambassador Sagaz responded with a toast to the Philippines as he presented Ed with a book about "Islas Filipinas." Needless to say, Cebu figures prominently in the book.

There were more toasts made, especially "Viva Casino Español," at the various areas of the celebration—the terrace, front porch, bar, dining salon and the Cervantes hall upstairs.

Gema Luisa Pido, the Casino's food consultant, and club manager **Rudy Rubi**, were congratulated for the excellent spread—tortillas, paellas, cocretas, pave asado, etc.—and for the efficient service. More than 20 cases of Gabriel Palmer's excellent wines from Valdepeñas were available and when that ran out, he just went to his Bona Viña shop to get more.

Next morning, Ignacio and Aurora Sagaz were on a tour that brought them to Magellan's monument in Mactan, plus enough time to spend exploring the Shangri-La resort there.

Out to welcome them were assistant GM **Daniele Vastolo** and front office manager **Gwen de la Cruz.**

They were back at their splendid accommodations at the Cebu City Marriott Hotel by 5 p.m. in preparation for what awaited them in the evening.

This was a Filipino dinner at the home of **Teresing Mendezona**, organized by the Arts Council for Ambassador and Mrs. Sagaz, Sr. Galvan and members of the Barcelona Guitar Quartet who arrived that day.

Helping Teresing were Arts Council president **Petite Garcia**, vice president **Vivina Chiu Yrastorza**, the quartet event chair **Chinggay Utzurrum, Herme** and **Fe Villarica, Marissa Fernan, Elvira Lu Ym** and **Jaime Chua.**

Call it a coincidence, but when the full moon rose to drench the terrace in silver moonlight, the arrival of the Barcelona Quartet—**Jaime Abad, Teresa Folgue, Francisco Pareja** and **Jordi Paredes**—was announced.

With niceties exchanged and chilled white wine sipped, dinner was announced. Place cards told everyone where to sit in tables draped in midnight blue satin and heaped with masses of orchids in every color imaginable.

Lanterns formed by exotic sarongs lit up the table with subtle reflections. Ornate porcelain from Imperial China drew compliments from everyone.

Sagaz had to leave that evening as a poetry reading in honor of **Pablo Neruda** awaited them in Manila.

Great delicacy

Javier Galvan remained for the Barcelona Guitar Quartet concert held at the City Sports Club Cebu near Ayala Center, which was filled to capacity. Javier happily said that this was one more time the Arts Council and Instituto Cervantes collaborated in bringing the best of Spain to Cebu.

The performance that ensued more than corroborated that. With great delicacy of touch, the quartet went through four "Danzas Españolas" by **Granados**—Andaluza, Zambra, Villanesca and Aragonesa, followed by **Albeniz**—Cadiz, Cordoba and Sevilla.

The second part of the program featured works by **Manuel de Falla**—"El Amor Brujo," Danza Española I from "La Vida Breve" and three selections from "El Sombrero de Tres Picos."

The last piece had the most fire in it, and such was the applause from the audience that the artists obliged with two encores.

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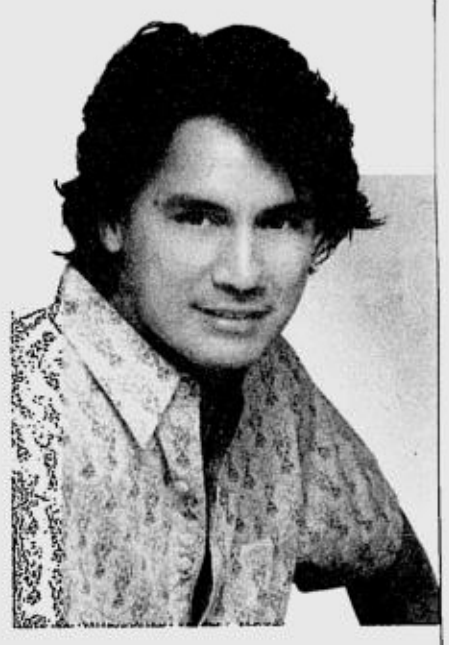

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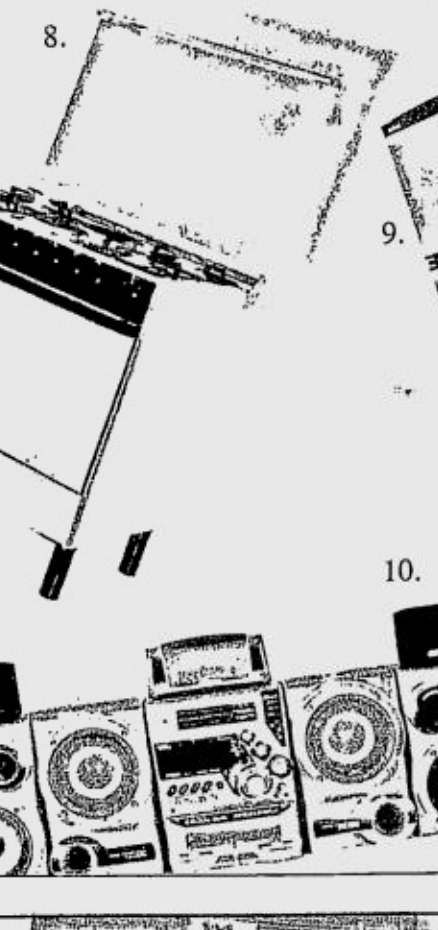

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Caregiving is Filipinos' new ticket to overseas jobs

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

WHAT kind of job allows a person to earn the equivalent of P30,000-P65,000 a month and have a chance to become a permanent resident in his/her host country?

If you don't know it yet, caregiving has become the ticket to a better life for many Filipinos, given the current demand in Canada, Europe, United States and Japan.

Caregiver refers to someone who is paid to care for the sick, the very young and the elderly either in a private home or an institution like hospices and hospitals. Unlike health professionals, such as doctors and nurses, who train for several years, caregivers get accredited and become eligible to apply for overseas jobs after short-term courses from six months to a year.

A caregiver's specific duties may include bathing and dressing of infants or frail elderly people; preparing hot and cold meals; cleaning bedrooms, toilets and bathrooms; and feeding infants and toddlers.

In recent years, Canada became a favorite destination for Filipinos after the country implemented its Live-in Caregiver Program. Many of these overseas contract workers are now reportedly living comfortably and have a chance to become immigrants after two years and bring their families to Canada.

These reports have inspired many to take up caregiving, raising the demand for training courses.

"When caregivers became popular in 1999, training centers also multiplied. Even universities and colleges now offer caregiver training," says Rosie Oliveros, a specialist at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Of the more than 300 Tesda-registered caregiver training institutions nationwide, some 80 percent are in the National Capital Region.

Quezon City has the biggest number with 57. Pasay-Makati has 27; Manila, 48; Muntinlupa-Parañaque-Las Piñas-Taguig, 45; Pasig-Mandaluyong-Marikina-San Juan, 21; and Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela, 12.

But Oliveros says fly-by-night centers are causing problems and posing unfair competition to legitimate ones. Trainees who enroll in the unregistered centers will lack the proper training and knowledge employers require.

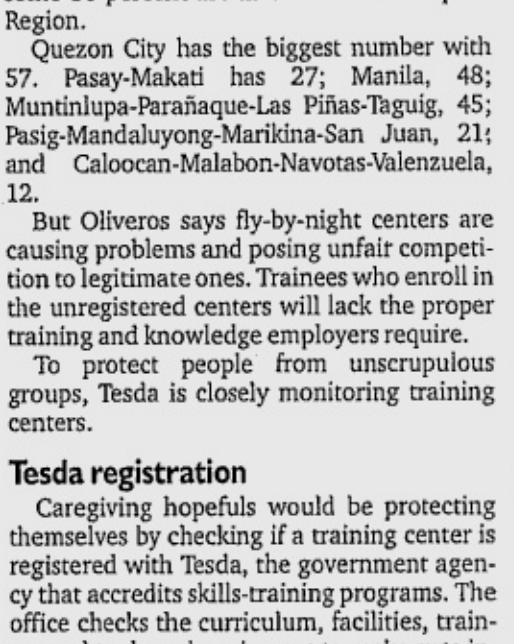
To protect people from unscrupulous groups, Tesda is closely monitoring training centers.

Tesda registration

Caregiving hopefuls would be protecting themselves by checking if a training center is registered with Tesda, the government agency that accredits skills-training programs. The office checks the curriculum, facilities, trainers and tools and equipment to make sure instruction is up to standards.

For one, Oliveros says, the Canadian embassy wants training institutions for caregivers to be Tesda-accredited. The agency ensures training centers comply with requirements set by the embassy before they are given the license to operate.

A training center, for instance, has to have a minimum of 30 sq m of space for every classroom, and about 60 sq m for home-setting management that includes kitchen, living room and bedroom.



THE ART of home management, such as housekeeping, food preparation and table etiquette, is thoroughly discussed in class.

Some tools are also necessary like, in home management, washing machine, refrigerator, microwave oven, gas range.

Training centers must also have the machines for the care of the elderly, such as hospital beds, wheelchair, two-legged crutches.

"We also look at the capabilities of the trainers. You can't just teach in the centers even if you are a nurse or a doctor," Oliveros says.

Trainers have to attend the 40-hour trainers' training methodology course in Tesda. The agency also monitors enrollment and attendance of students but does not interfere in the setting of tuition, which range from P14,000 to 26,000 for seven months.

"We do not control tuition," says Oliveros. "Some training centers add extra lessons... like swimming, driving or dancing."

Curriculum

Immigration Network Services Inc., which has been operating for six years and accredited with Tesda in 2001, has trained scores of caregivers, especially those applying under Canada's Live-in Caregiver Program. A number of graduates are now citizens of or immigrants in Canada.

Philippine Women's University (PWU) has also taught a good number of caregivers now living in Canada.

Both INS and PWU have an extensive curriculum for caregivers.

"Canada prefers Filipinos because they are easy to train and are hardworking. They can easily adapt to the country where they work, often excelling at their jobs even in the most difficult circumstances," says Carmencita Magtal, PWU assistant vice president for continuing education and information technology.

"Canadians favor Filipinos because we are innately hospitable," adds Lyn Pedro, INS national marketing director.

However, she notes some trainees simply want to get the required training certificate.

Canada requires caregiver applicants to have at least 72 units of college education, 6-12 months of training in caregiving services and at least one year of work-related experience (as a nanny or baby-sitter, among others).

They should also be able to read, write and speak English. A bit of French is a welcome bonus.

To enroll in a training center, an applicant should present a medical certificate, transcript of records authenticated by the school, character reference or recommendation letter, clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation and biodata. There is no age limit.

INS (tel. 891-5686 and 891-5920) and PWU (tel. 526-8421 and 524-2614) use different modules, including an overview of the live-in caregiver program of Canada and an introduction to the caregiver-skills enhancement program.

"We also teach... basic first aid, basic life support and CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation]," says Pedro.

Home management (housekeeping, food preparation and table etiquette), personality development, communication and language skills, and values formation are also given a lot of emphasis. Cross-culture orientation is often handled by an expatriate.

The care of a child (e.g. proper way of bathing and feeding infants); care of a child with special needs (disabled and mentally challenged); and care of the elderly (bathing and dressing in bed, medication management, transfers and preventing back injuries) are also given a lot of attention.

INS and PWU trainers include registered physical therapists, doctors, nurses and foreigners.

Each class has a minimum of 25 students who meet six hours a day, Monday through Friday.

At the end of the training, INS sends its students to an institution such as Virlanie Homes to care for the elderly as part of their practicum.

About 75 percent of the enrollees in both INS and PWU are women. Most trainees actually have degrees in accounting, business, computer and engineering. But, since chances for overseas employment are better for caregivers, they undergo training even after they graduate from college.

"The Canadian embassy is very strict with student attendance," says Magtal. "[Embassy people] make surprise visits to check the facilities and look at the class records of teachers."

AS PART of the curriculum, training centers assist students in processing their papers and applying for a visa, and teach them how to conduct themselves during interviews.

No deployment

Most training centers do not themselves send out graduates for overseas employment.

"Training centers are not authorized to deploy," says Oliveros.

They are not licensed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency as recruitment agencies. "You cannot combine a training cen-

CAREGIVING/ E2

Many Filipino caregivers now reportedly live comfortably in Canada and can become immigrants after two years

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TESDA requires all training centers to have the necessary tools. A course on caring for the elderly, for instance, requires human dummies, hospital beds, wheelchair and crutches.

Photo exhibit pays tribute to canines

LULI Arroyo, by Lita Puyat

RENÉE Speltz, by Bengy Toda

IF taking a photo of your favorite pet on your dummy camera is hard enough, what more taking artistic portrait shots?

This was the dilemma faced by the country's master photographers when they worked together on Rustan's Supermarkets' Celebrity Pooch Gallery to be launched on Nov. 8, 6 p.m., in South Court, Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

The country's foremost photographers—Bengy Toda, Jun de Leon, Lita Puyat, Neal Oshima, Tom Epperson and Wig Tysmans—had their work cut out for them as they spent weeks taking the photos of Manila's most affluent and most popular with their favorite dogs.

Organized jointly by Rustan's Supermarkets, in line with their responsible Pet Ownership Project, and Metro Magazine, the likes of Luli Arroyo, Nedy Tantoco, Renée Speltz, Richard Gomez, Doris Magsaysay-Ho, Jericho Rosales, Alvin Patrimonio, Bianca Araneta, Celine Lopez, Anna Angara, Mylene Dizon, Tintin Bersola and Julius Babao, and Ching and Philip Cruz, among others, will be seen for the first time ever in their places of comfort, with no less than their best four-legged friends.

Tysmans was the first to admit the difficulty in photographing hyperactive pets. But this is not going to be at all apparent in his work, as attendees, pet lovers and photography buffs will see for themselves when the exhibit opens.

Puyat, who is not a stranger to photographing intimate subjects, her family being a big personal favorite, also agrees but this also did not deter her nor her fellow photographers from producing exciting owner-pet photos.

Epperson had no problem shooting one subject—fellow photographer Toda, who conversely shot his photo with his pet, too. This made for lighter moments for the pair, both of whom are long-time friends, and, along with Oshima and De Leon, round out this perfect combination of artistic talent and creativity.

TESSA Prieto-Valdes, by Tom Epperson

CELINE Lopez, by Jun de Leon

RICHARD Gomez, by Wig Tysmans

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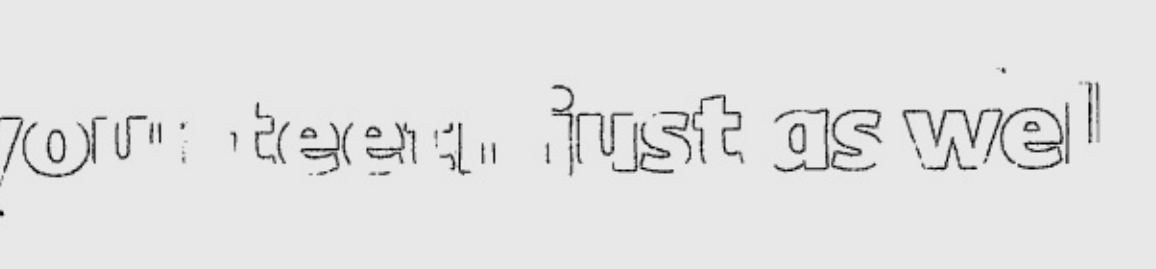

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THERE is a growing population of dog breeds in the country, and subsequently, a new generation of dog lovers who are treating their furry pets more as babies than best friends.

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Some Filipino pet owners still feed them human food or leftovers, which can do more harm than good to pets, says Eduardo Legarda, president of Petpro Inc., mother company of Canine Depot, the country's leading one-stop shop for dog and cat food and pet accessories.

Dogs require food that contains the proper amount of minerals, vitamins and supplements, explains Legarda. And the right combination can only be found in processed dog food.

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Caregiving . . .

From page E1

ter and a recruitment agency. If a training center promises deployment, students should be suspicious," she warns.

Training centers are not even allowed to make referrals "because we don't want [graduates] to fall into the hands of illegal recruiters."

Pedro says students do not really need a recruitment agency. Most training centers have lists of prospective employers provided by former trainees now working abroad.

Through the Internet, prospective caregivers can also look directly for possible employers and contact them.

As part of the curriculum, INS and PWU orient students in processing their travels papers, including applying for visa. They also prepare trainees for interviews.

Pedro says applicants usually fail to get a visa because of inadequate caregiving and communication skills.

CAREGIVERS are taught basic first aid skills like CPR.

"Meaning, they are not able to answer satisfactorily questions posed to them, which usually pertain to home management and first aid. Some experience mental block, while others cannot express themselves well in English," says Pedro. "In the actual interview, you either pass or fail even if you have a training certificate and have already found an employer."

Hainanese chicken is crowd-drawer in Singapore National Day

IF YOU have a weakness for Singaporean cuisine, especially Hainanese chicken, there's no better place to find it than at the generous buffets set out on Singapore's National Day.

Hosted by the very competent and pretty ambassador **Kheng Hua Lim** and held at the ballroom of Mandarin Oriental, you could see the crowds making a bee-line for the very popular dish.

With both Foreign Affairs Secretary **Blas Ople** and Papal Legate Msgr. **Antonio Franco** doing the honors, Ambassador Lim was very fetching in her native costume as she stood beside them.

It looked like *tout* Manila was there including Mexican Ambassador **Enrique** and **Mariana Hubbard**, Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam**, Ambassador **Enrique** and **Letty Syquia**, Consuls **Helen Ong, Evie Costa, Fortune Ledesma**, Malaysian Ambassador **Noor Taufik**, United Arab Emirates Ambassador **Mohammed Ebrahim al-Jowaid**, US Ambassador **Francis** and Dr. **Marie Ricciardone**, Sen. **Edgardo** and **Baby Angara**, lawyer **Ricardo Romulo, Peter Wallace**, Unesco Secretary-General and former Sen. **Letty Shahani, Paeng Hechanova, Paz Yuchengco**, and others too numerous to mention.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

***

It's hats off to Portuguese Ambassador **Joao** and **Ulrike da Silva** for the monumental job of organizing the festival of Portuguese culture and the showcase of Portuguese brands at Rustan's, with lots of help from the indefatigable **Marilen T. Valbuena**. It's a grand idea that other embassies may want to emulate. Just imagine if Thailand, Vietnam and China showcased their products. No more business for *viajeras*.

At the reception at Ambassador and Sra. Da Silva's residence, it wasn't only products that were exhibited but their famous *bacalao*, a perennial favorite with Filipinos in croquettes or oven-baked.

As part of the celebration, Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco** was presented the Order of Merit of the Republic of Portugal (rank of Commander), one of the highest honors that can be conferred on a non-Portuguese, by Ambassador Da Silva on behalf of President **Jorge Samplao**. It is, in fact, the highest decoration given to a Filipino so far.

The festival, which included a book launch at University of Santo Tomas of early Portuguese chronicles on the Philippines and a marvelous exhibit at the InterCon by prolific artist **Manny Baldemor**, was capped by a dinner at InterCon's ballroom.

It was an evening of Portuguese food, songs and dance. Guest chef **Alexandre Ferreria** flew in from Portugal to prepare an incredible buffet showcasing the cuisine of his homeland, while Grupo de Dancas e Cantares de Macaw entertained the guests with their repertoire of Portuguese folk songs and dances.

A toast to Ambassador Joao and Mme. Ulrike da Silva for undertaking a Herculean task that gave us an enjoyable evening.

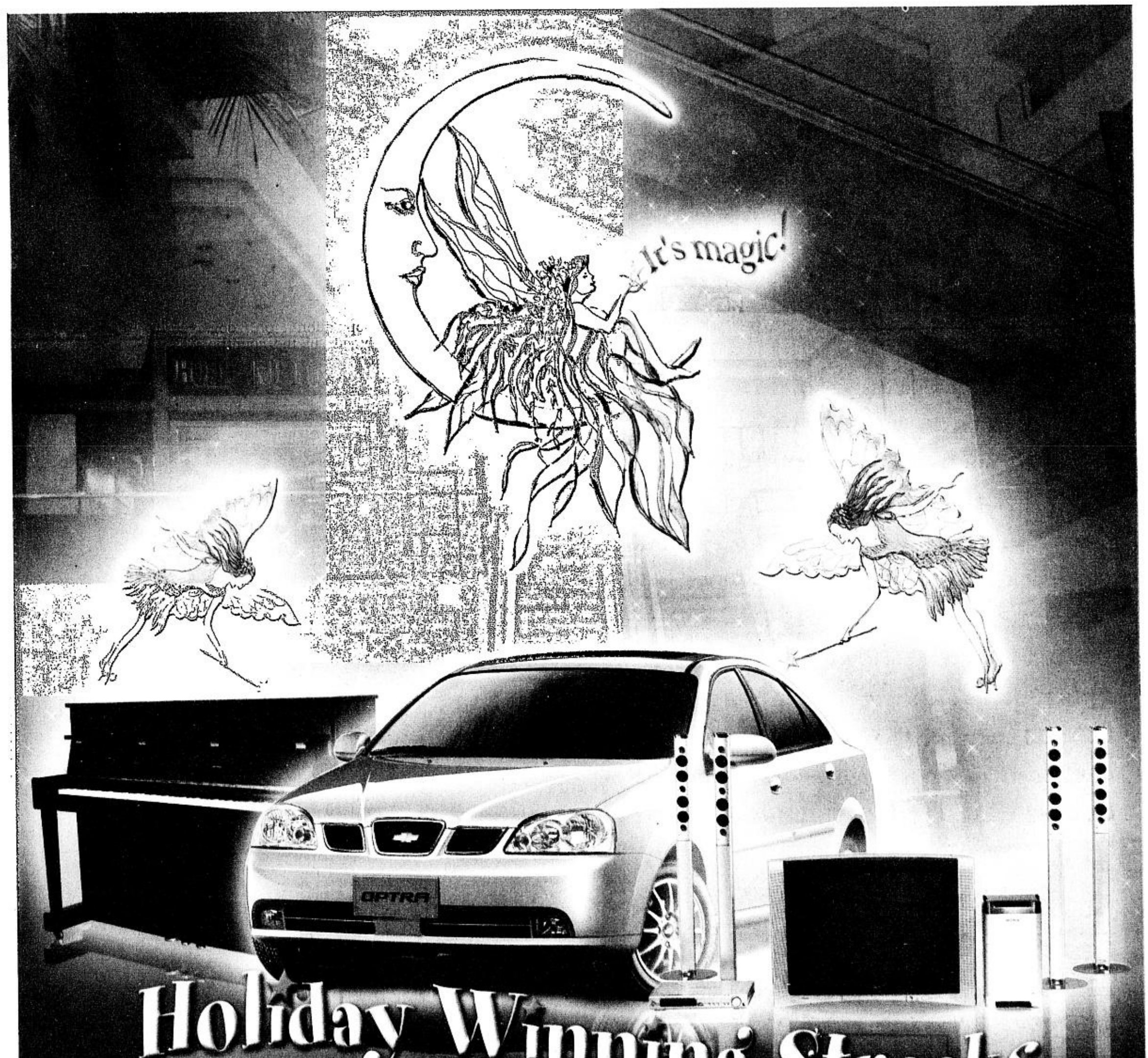
FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Blas Ople, Singaporean Ambassador Kheng Hua Lim and Archbishop Antonio Franco

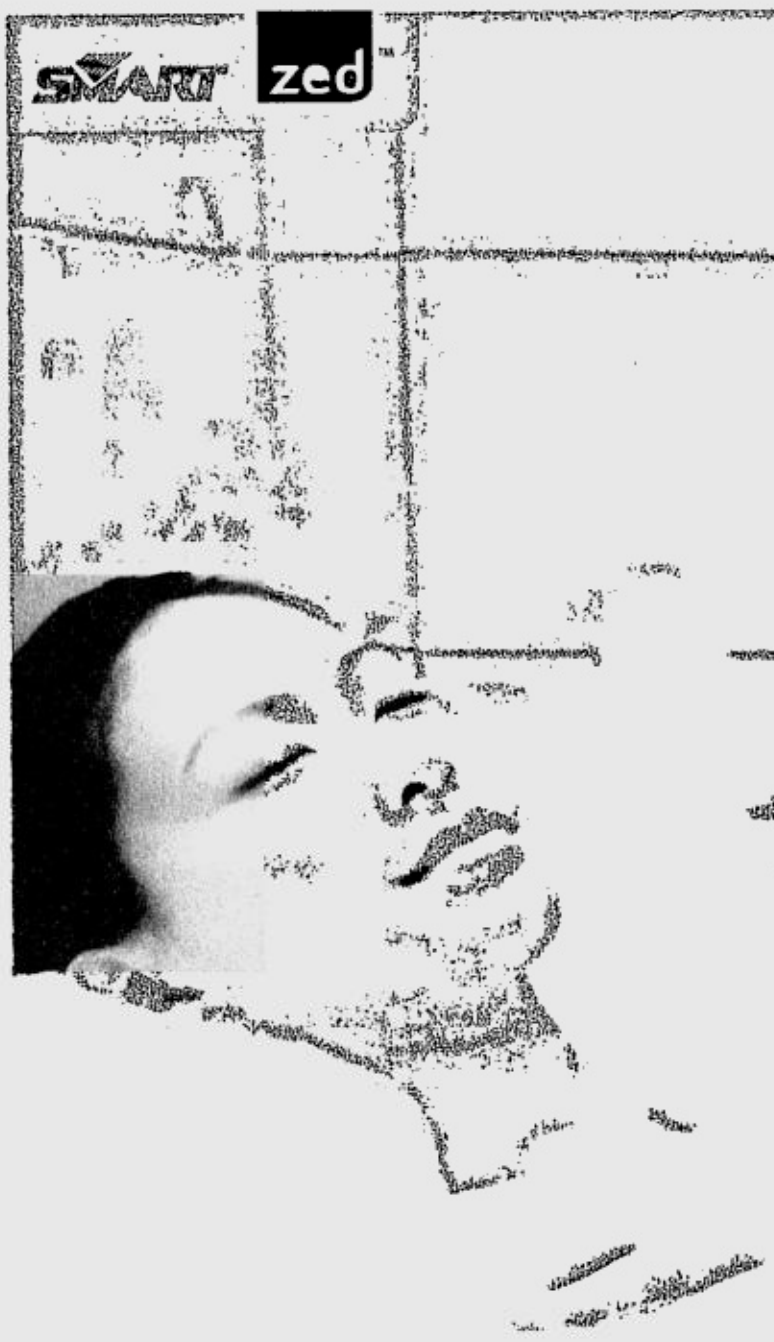
PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

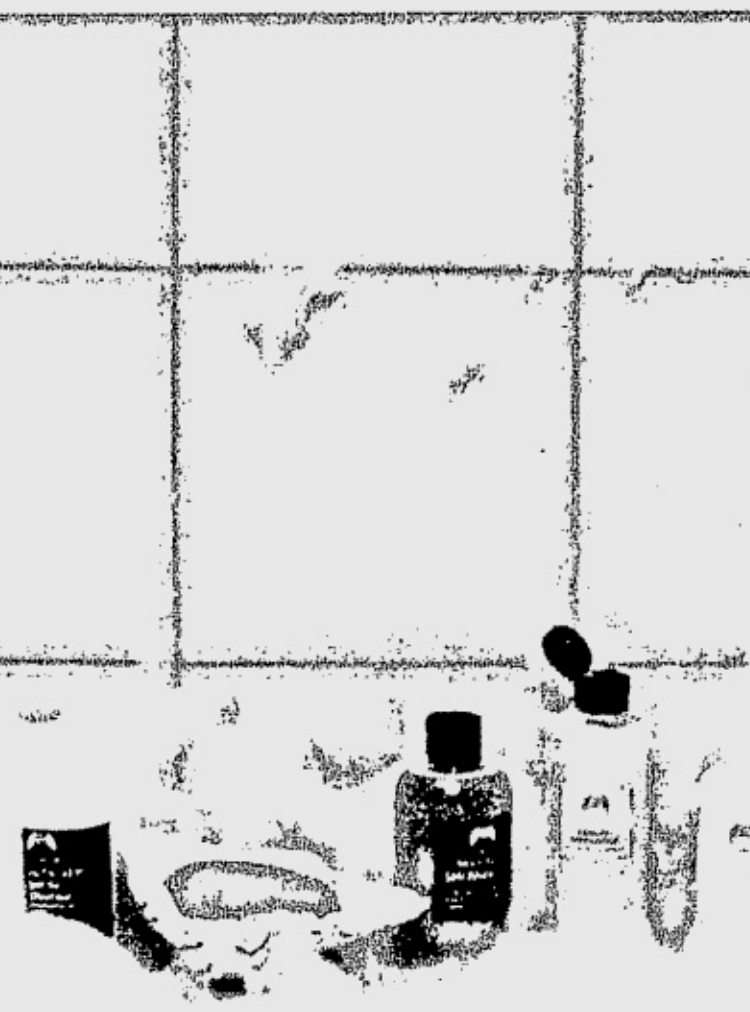
FOREIGN Affairs Undersecretary Jose Zaide, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco and Portuguese Ambassador Joao da Silva

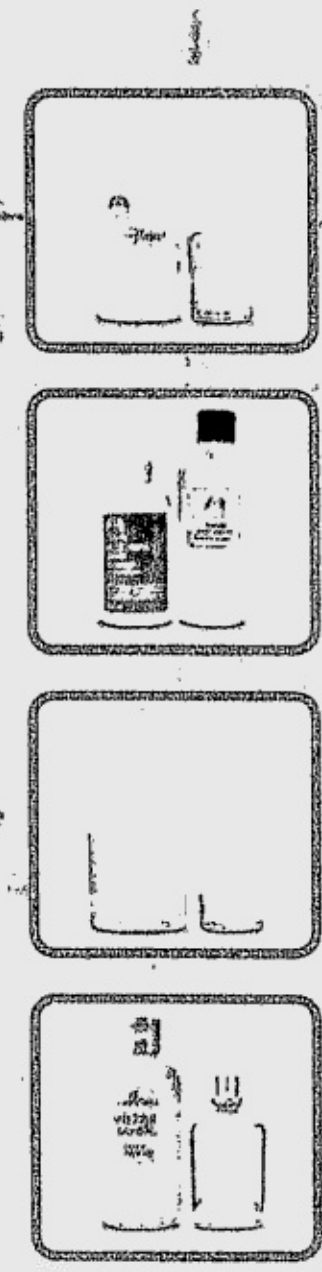
MALAYSIAN Ambassador Noor Taufik and Indian Ambassador Nevrekha Sharma

UAE Ambassador Mohammed Ebrahim al-Jowaid









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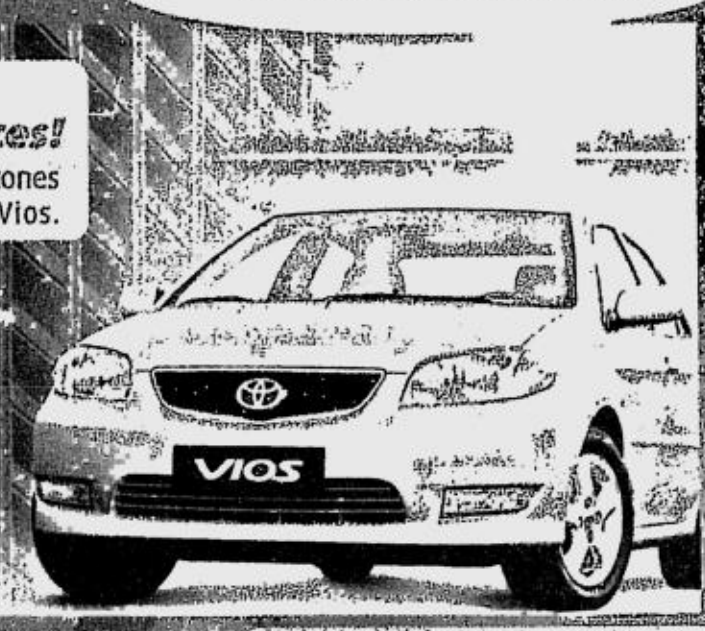

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Mr. Suave Version 2	*Parokya Ni Edgar*	TONE MRSUAVE2
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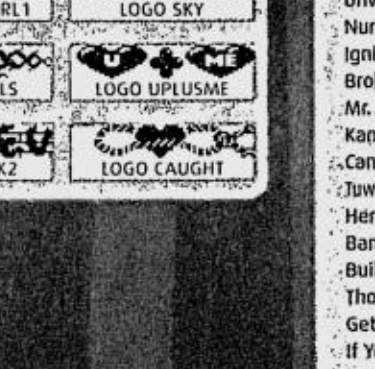

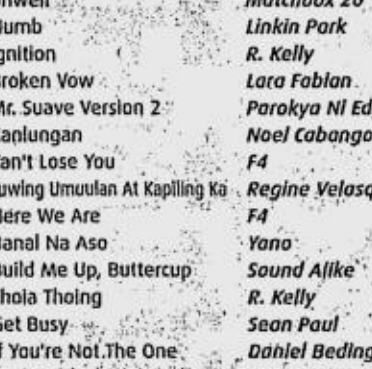

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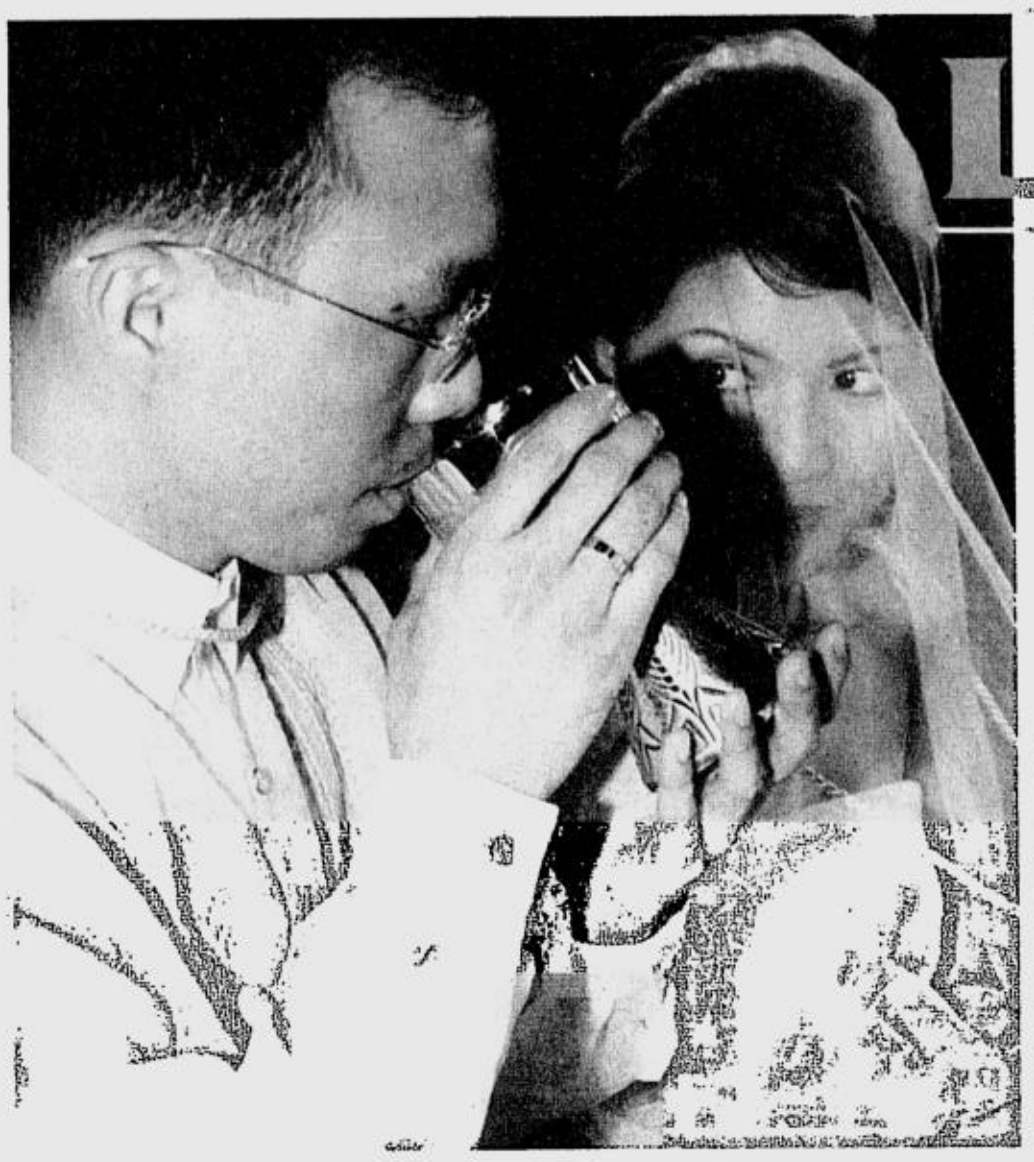

NEWLYWEDS Gerry and Mian Santos (née Cabie)

IN 1994, friends Anthony Gerry Gomez Santos and Dr. Hermione Mary Anne Atencio Cabie parted ways after graduation from the University of Santo Tomas.

He toured Europe as a member of the University of Santo Tomas Singers while she entered the UST College of Medicine and Surgery.

It was her turn to join the UST Singers in its first World Concert Tour in 2000, after getting her medical license. Santos, who migrated to Canada early that year, traveled from Toronto to visit Cabie in Manhattan, during the New York leg of the choir's United States tour.

What followed was a long-distance relationship founded on trust and 13 years of friendship.

On June 7 this year, Santos and Cabie were married at the historic Santuario de San Agustin in Intramuros, Manila—declared a World Heritage Church by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Gerry, a licensed pharmacist, is the only son of Sofronio Fernandez Santos and Prof. Alicia Moyo Gomez-Santos of Camalig, Albay. Mian is the daughter of National Broadcasting Network (PTV-4) associate producer Prof. Honor Blanco Cabie and Maria Rosa Alegre Atencio-Cabie of Pinili, Ilocos Norte and Moncada, Tarlac.

The evening nuptial Mass was solemnized by Fr. Francis Galvan, OSA, and Fr. Antolin Asor, OSA,

REUNION/ F2

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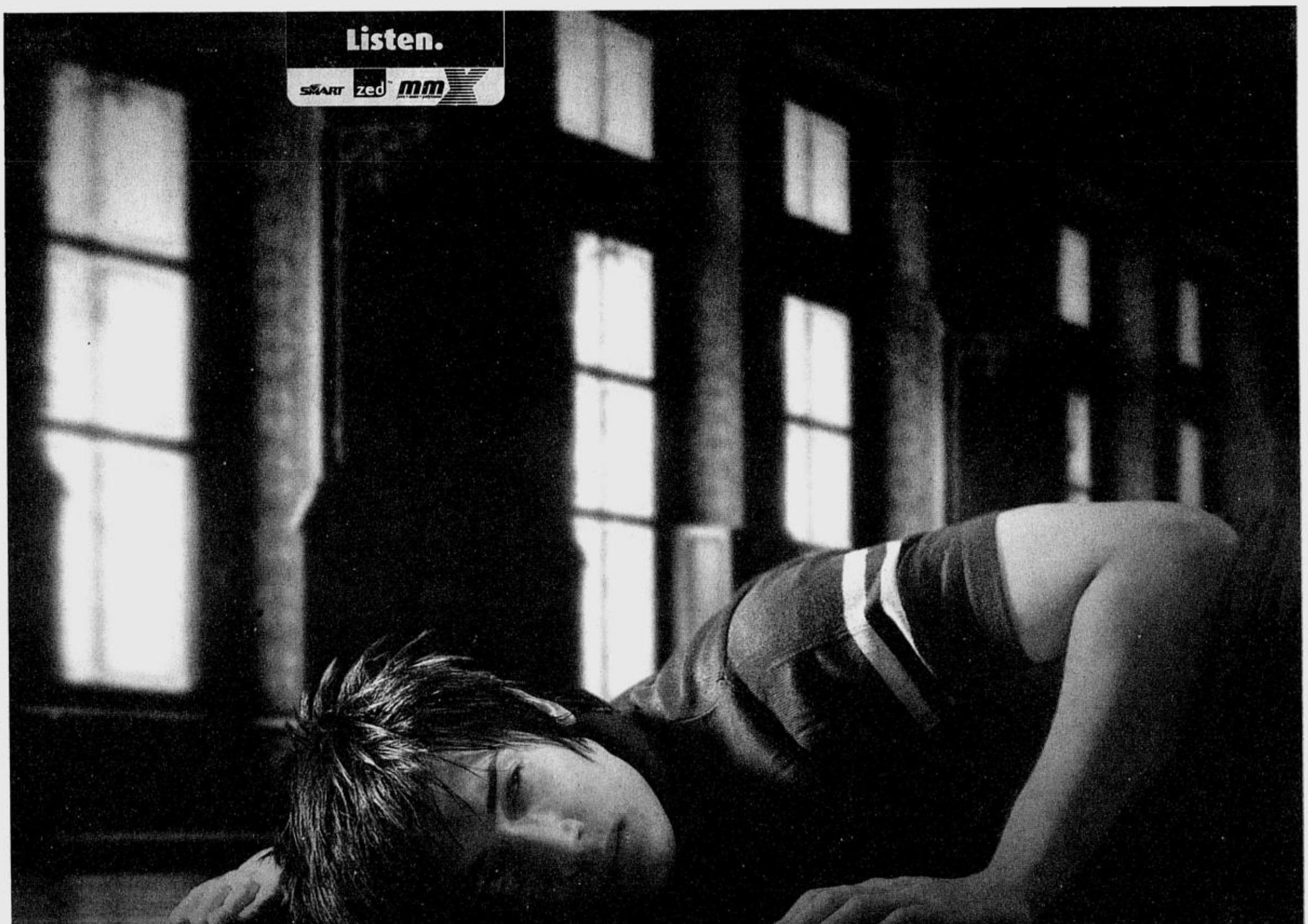

Polyphonic Ringtones

Title	Artist	Keywords
How Soon Is Now	Totu	MTONE HOWSOON
My Immortal	Evanescence	MTONE IMMORTAL
Intuition	Jewel	MTONE INTUI
I Want You	Thalia Feat. Fat Joe	MTONE IWANTU
Show Me How To Live	Audioslave	MTONE SHOWHOW
Why not	Hilary Duff	MTONE WHYNOT
Angel	Amanda Perez	MTONE ANGEL1
Mr. Suave	Parokya Ni Edgar	MTONE MRSUAVE
Where Is The Love	Black Eyed Peas	MTONE WERISLUV
In The End	Linkin Park	MTONE INTHEEND

Title	Artist	Keywords
I'll Be	Edwin McCain	MTONE IBE
Asereje	Las Ketchup	MTONE ASEREJE
Numb	Linkin Park	MTONE NUMB
Thoia Thoing	R. Kelly	MTONE THOIA
Spaghetti Song	Sexbomb	MTONE SPAG
Turning Japanese	Vapors	MTONE JAPANIS
If You're Not The One	Daniel Bedingfield	MTONE IFYOURNOT
Somewhere I Belong	Linkin Park	MTONE SOMEWHERE
Head Over Feet	Alanis Morisette	MTONE HEADFEET
Always	Jon Bon Jovi	MTONE ALWAYS

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WITH THEIR parents and families

THE WORLD-RENOWNED UST Singers performing "The Prayer"

Reunion of friends ends in altar date

From page F1

close friends of the groom who flew in from Toronto, Canada.

The groom's sister, Sr. Ma. Annie Santos, ACI, was lector during the celebration.

The UST Singers, with conductor and principal sponsor Prof. Fidel G. Calalang Jr., sang during the church ceremony. Sherry Santos-Javier sang during the communion rite.

Male principal sponsors, aside from Calalang, were former Cabinet member Heherson Alvarez, former Mayor Benito Aquino, Florencio Cabie, former Minister Gregorio Cendaña, Toong San Chan, Dr. Paul Francia, Edgardo Manda, Gen. Cresencio Maralit, engineer Justito Mintu, former Mayor Samuel Pagdilao Sr., Judge Reinato Quilala, Placido Urbanes and Dr. Paul Zafaralla.

Female principal sponsors were Mayor Estelita Aquino, Consul Gen. Susan Castrence, Agnes Chan, Luz Co, Gertrudes Corpuz, Elvira Go, Dr. Mayvelyn Gose, Catalina Mabanag, Corazon Maen, Rep. Imee Marcos, Carmen Maske, Noemi Mintu, Mayor Anunciacion Pagdilao, Lily Quilala and Gina Liza Ravago.

Secondary sponsors were the bride's brother Heracles Lord Bernardo Cabie, lawyer Ryan Rey Quilala, lawyer Amador Tolentino, Dr. Coleta Arias; and the groom's sisters, Sherry Santos-Javier and Aline Santos-Masip.

Groomsmen and bridesmaids were Paolo Honrado, Jose Mari Rubio, Michael Maen and Virgilio Villanueva Jr.; Roda Agcaoili, Dr. Audrey Katherina Arano, Maria Theresa Gener and Catherine Maske.

Dinner reception followed at the Philippine Coconut Palace on Roxas Boulevard. The bride's sister and maid of honor, Harmony Francisca A. Cabie, named guest tables after cities/places significant to Gerry and Mian. One table, Milpitas, California, was where they first kissed.

Best man architect Josemito V. Zulueta gave the ceremonial toast. Da Capo Strings performed over dinner while the UST Singers sang as the couple danced.

The flowers, bromeliads and orchids, were arranged by Jaime Santiago of JVSS, The Flowershop Company, Rockwell. The bride carried a classic hand-tied bouquet of orange tea roses.

The elements of wind, fire and water, which legend says brings balance and blessings, were integrated into the event.

Orange Japanese luminaries, zen fountain, double rose topiaries and votive candles created a tranquil atmosphere. A gerbera-inspired fondant cake rested beneath a trellis adorned with autumn leaves.

WITH THEIR principal sponsors

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TAN-DE LEON

Anthony Tan, son of **Corazon** and the late **Leonardo Tan**, will tie the knot with **Maria Anna de Leon**, daughter of **Roberto** and **Eduvigis de Leon**, on Nov. 8 at St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang. Reception will follow at Alabang Country Club.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

DE VERA-ANGULO

John Conrad de Vera, son of **Estrelita de Vera**, will marry **Eleanor Angulo**, daughter of **Florentino** and **Medelina Angulo**, on Nov. 29 at the Sta. Maria de la Estrada in Katipunan, QC. Reception will follow at Albergus Garden, Capitol Hills, QC.

The bride will wear a duchess satin and Swiss organza gown embellished with heavy embossed beads and detachable cathedral train. It was designed and created by **Ma. Emily Sy** of Esy Creations, who also created the entourage's two-tone apple-green motif. The wedding coordinator is **Anna Tueres** of Solutions.

PABILONIA-BUENAFLOR

Fitzgerald Pabilonia, son of **Yolento** and **Magdalena Pabilonia**, will marry **Cherrylyn Buenaflor**, daughter of **Wilfredo** and **Perlita Buenaflor**, on Nov. 9 at The Chapel of Transfiguration in Caleruega in Nasugbu, Batangas. Reception will follow in a garden setting at Josephine's resto in Tagaytay City.

The bride will wear a pearl white Thai silk strapless princess-cut gown with Spanish lace neckline and a separate shawl with caviar beads designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo**.

AGUSTIN DEBUT

Andrea Francesca Clarissa Agustin, only child of **Alice de Castro** and **Jules Ramos Agustin** of Bulacan, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a fairy tale-themed party on Nov. 8 at Davao Room of the Philippine Plaza Hotel. The debutante will wear two Cinderella-inspired gowns by **Renee Salud**. Special events planning specialist is O&L.

ALCONABA-JOSON

Jose Carlos Alconaba, son of **Teresita** and **Teresito Alconaba**, will exchange vows with **Abigail Joson**, daughter of **Antonio** and **Priscilla Joson**, on Nov. 7 at Sanctuario de San Antonio. Reception will follow at Manila Peninsula Hotel Ballroom.

The bride will wear an ivory-white silk gazar princess-cut gown in voluminous skirt and cap sleeves bodice traced with caviar and glass brocade beads designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo**, who also did the rest of the bridal ensemble in monochromatic burgundy, rose pink, old rose and magenta.

FLORES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mario and **Estella Flores** will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows on Nov. 8 at St. Rita de Cascia Parish in Quezon City. Reception will follow at the Mactan Room of Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel. Their two kids **Giovanni** and **Ginger** will stand as wedding sponsors.

The bride will wear a glossy shantung gown in silver gray, and for the reception, a column bias gown in fully beaded bodice with detachable collar and an extra shawl, both designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo**. The designer also did the *piña barong Tagalog* of the groom, their son and daughter.

PASION DEBUT

Dexter and **Connie Pasion** will be joined by family and friends as they celebrate the 18th birthday of their daughter, **Ma. Carmelia Rosario de Ocampo Pasion** at a dinner-dance to be held at the Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko on Nov. 8.

Macia is a first year college student taking up Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in Management at Assumption College, Makati.

She will wear a baby pink gown made of Thai silk with floral design, fully beaded with sequins, pearls, cut beads in monochromatic color showered with rhinestone and Swarovski crystals.

FLEECE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Estrella Gambe of Sta. Ana, Manila and Bohol, and American-English **Greg Fleece** recently renewed their marriage vows at San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception followed at Manila Peninsula, where the bride's friends and former classmates danced the night away to '70s tunes. The couple, who first met on a tour in Europe, is blessed with two sons. Home to them is Texas, USA.

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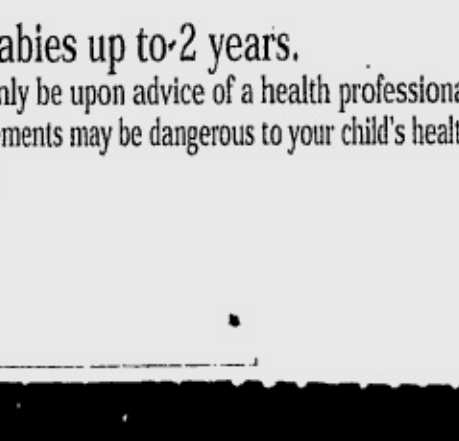

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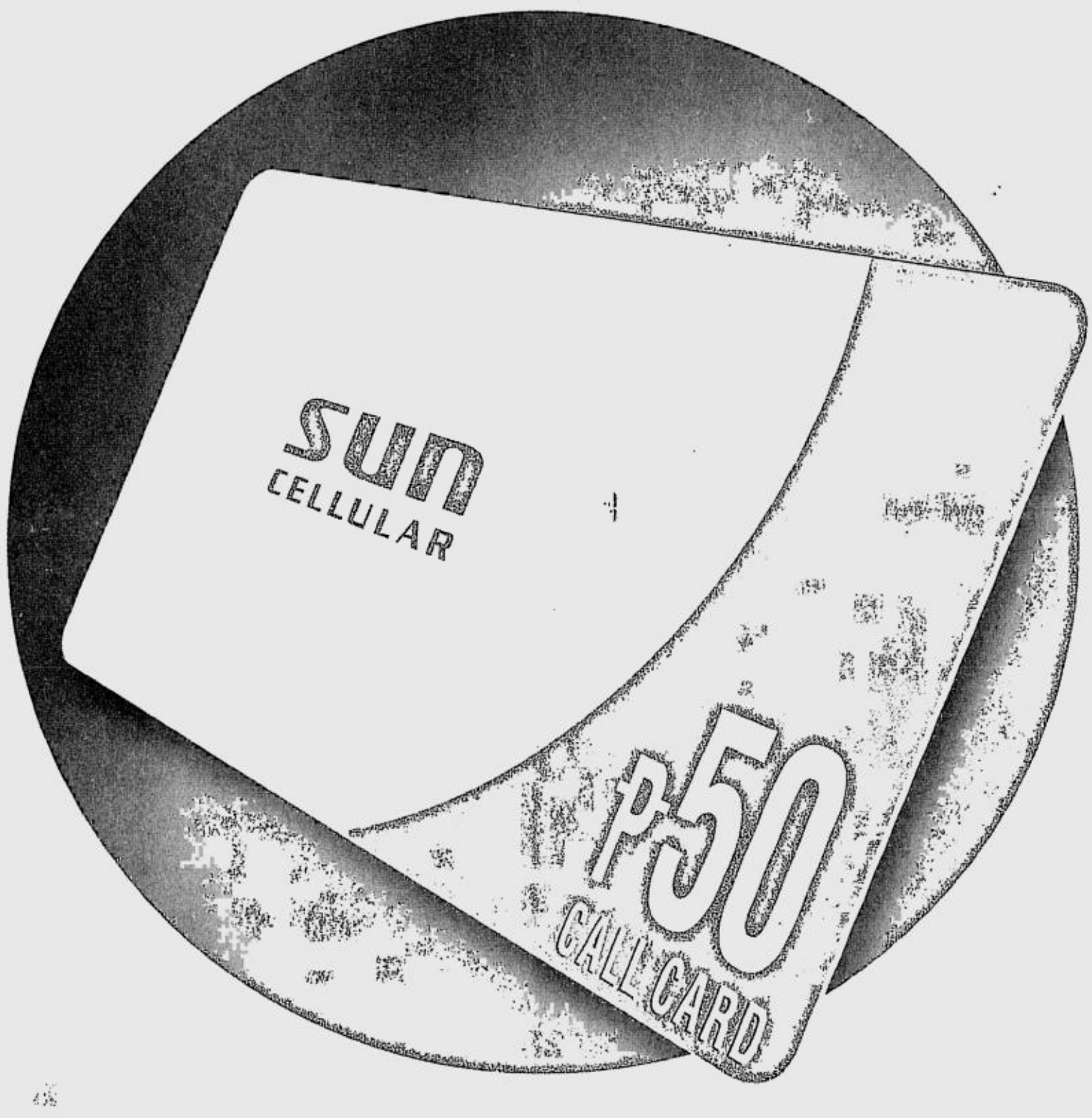

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Karyn Bosnak's story is a modern fairy tale. She put herself in debt and the online world rescued her

KARYN tells her story in her recently released book.

Out of debtor's prison and into the light

By Pam Pastor

WHAT would you do if your credit card debt had skyrocketed and you had no way of paying?

Run to your parents? Get a second job? Hide?

Karyn Bosnak, who owed $20,000, did none of those things. Instead, she made a move that earned both the ire and the admiration of people around the world. She put up a website to ask people for financial help.

Twenty-six-year-old Bosnak was a television producer in Chicago. After spending her entire life in Illinois, she moved to New York in 2000 to "figure out who exactly Karyn Bosnak was."

Thanks to her wayward spending habits, instead of finding herself, she found herself in debt.

Blame the cab rides, the endless trips to Starbucks, the bikini waxes, the hair treatments, her inkling to try every Zagat-accredited restaurant in her city and her desire to emulate the lifestyle of the "Sex and the City" girls by going designer-loco, making Bloomingdale's her playground and stocking up on Prada, Gucci, BCBG, D&G, DKNY and more.

By Juné 2002, she was dead broke and owed credit card companies a scary $20,221.40.

DAMSEL in debt. Karyn's unconventional approach to solving her money problems led to many TV appearances.

Bosnak, realizing her doom, quickly made changes in her lifestyle. She abandoned the comforts of living in an apartment in a posh neighborhood and moved into a more modest one in Brooklyn which she shared with a coworker.

She held a sidewalk sale and even sold the microwave oven. She started selling her possessions on Ebay.com.

The moves helped her get by, but did nothing to reduce her debt. Bosnak knew she needed to do something bigger.

Remembering a friend's story about how someone put up a sign in a supermarket asking for $7,000, Bosnak realized that she needed to do something similar.

She turned to the Internet for help. After online classified ads rejected her posts, she decided to put up her own website, www.savekaryn.com.

"Hello! My name is Karyn," her homepage read. "I'm really nice, and I'm asking for your help! You see, I have this huge credit card debt and I need $20,000 to pay it off. So if you have an extra buck or two, please send it my way! All I need is $1 from 20,000 people, or $2 from 10,000 people, or $5 from 4,000 people...—You get the picture! Together, we can banish credit card debt from my life!"

The website had different sections: the "Grand Debt Tally," which kept track of how much money was coming in from donors, how much money Karyn was making with her Ebay sales and how much debt was left; the Buy Karyn's Stuff page, which gave people the chance to bid on her belongings to help her raise more funds: the Daily Buck, which contained stories about what Bosnak was doing to save money; and the Contact Karyn page, which allowed people to interact with her.

Her Daily Buck entry for June 25, 2002 read: "Today I was so poor that I bought a turkey sandwich on bread with mustard and ate half of it for lunch and half of it for dinner. I was hungry, but I could stand to lose a few pounds. Maybe I could be a supermodel."

Using wit and charm, Bosnak spread the word about her problem.

Soon, her first five dollars rolled in. "My advice is to lose the extras. Ditch the cell phone, cancel the long distance, buy phone cards, and stop eating out," Nikki from Chicago wrote Bosnak.

At the end of the second week, strangers and friends had sent her a total of $124.55.

News about Bosnak spread fast. At the end of the third week, her website had gotten 21,932 hits and she had received $132.90 in donations.

Along with the donations came e-mails from a lot of people. Members of the online community were also talking about her on weblogs and message boards.

Perverted and nasty

While a lot of the e-mails were friendly and

OUT/ G2

Out of debtor's prison . . .

SHE sat back in her bedroom as donations flowed in from all over the world.

supportive, some were perverted.

"I'd like to send you $100 in exchange for sex. That's right, SEX. If you have enough balls to ask for money, then I guess I have enough balls to ask for this... If you send a picture and you're really cute, I may be willing to go as high as $1,000."

"I am sending this all the way from Down Under, if ya put a picture of your breasts on your website, I'll send ya $50 and a pet kangaroo."

Not surprisingly, a lot of the feedback was nasty.

"Dearest Karyn, I am terribly sorry about your financial difficulties. There is, however, some good that will come of your financial incompetence: you have inspired me to add a special section to my website called 'Retard of the Month!' I have selected you to be the inaugural recipient of the 'Retard of the Month' honors."

She also received death threats and was awarded "Dumbass of the Month" by another website.

People put up anti-Karyn websites like "Don't Save Karyn" and "Save Karyn Not."

Soon, the media's attention was on her too. She was featured by the New York Post, New York Times, National Post, Sunday Herald in Australia, San Francisco Chronicle, USA Today, Chicago Tribune, London's Daily Telegraph, Daily Mirror and Guardian, Canada's Ottawa Citizen, People Magazine, Los Angeles Times, American Glamour, British Glamour, and Time Magazine.

She had TV appearances on the "Today" show, CNBC's "News with Brian Williams" and CNN.

Various radio stations from all over started calling her. These interviews went without a hitch, except for one where Bosnak didn't know that the radio DJ had challenged listeners to be as mean to her as possible, promising a prize for the person who could make her hang up.

"I'd like to punch you in your face!" one caller shouted at her. But she took the interview in stride.

Karyn faced her detractors head-on and remained polite. In extreme cases, she brandished her sarcasm and wit like a sword.

To someone who asked her, "Where is your pride?", she replied, "I left it at Bloomingdale's."

The more mileage she got, whether good or bad, the more donations poured in: $1,352.98 flowed in on week six alone.

Twenty weeks after she put up her website, Bosnak was able to pay off her debt, using donations, her own money and the money she made from her Ebay sales. Over all, 2,718 people gave her $13,323.08. Her site got over two million hits and she received around 40,000 e-mails.

Bosnak's book "Save Karyn" has just been released (a funny read, albeit somewhat self-indulgent), her site is still running (but she's no longer asking for cash), a movie deal is supposedly in the works and people are still arguing about the ethics of her actions.

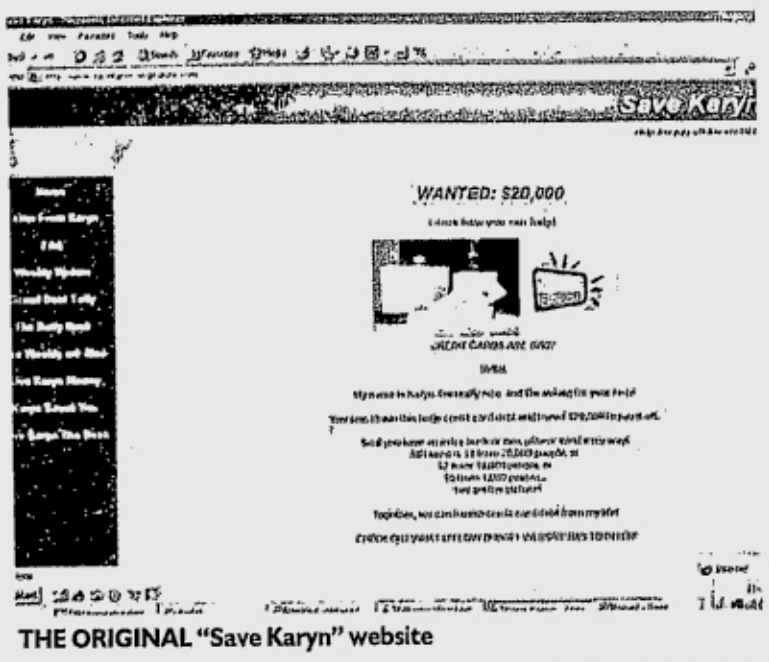
Was Bosnak wrong in asking people for help? Did she take the easy way out? Has she learned her lesson?

She says she has. She ends her book with, "I moved to New York to figure out who I was. And since I've been here, I've learned more about life, people, humanity and kindness than I could ever have imagined."

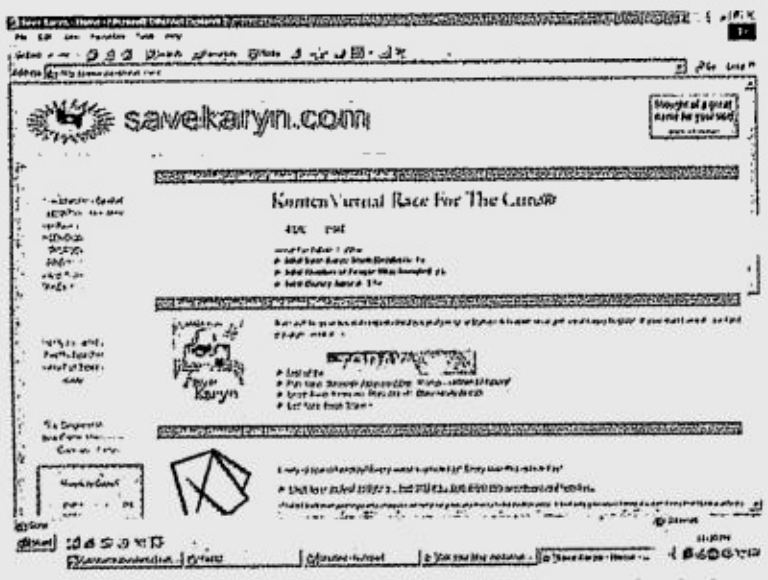
Hers is a modern fairytale, of credit cards and websites instead of poisoned apples and glass slippers. Bosnak is the damsel in distress, her detractors are the wicked witches and the donors her Prince Charming.

But whether Bosnak is hero or villain is something the world still has to decide.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.



THE ORIGINAL "Save Karyn" website



KARYN has turned her online home into a portal for people who have trouble with their finances, just like she did.

THE "LA MER" women and the author

Beauty cream for crème de la crème, shoes to put your beast foot forward

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE face cream—Crème de la Mer. This is probably one of the best moisturizing creams in the world! Crème de la Mer has had a cult following since its initial production in the late '60s. It was then used only by a select few. Although today the cult has grown, it still consists of a discriminating few who cherish beautiful skin. And who uses the cream? Only celebrities, models, royalty and socialites.

Recently, I was asked to host a "Crème de la Mer" tea party for some 18 women at the presidential suite of the Shangri-La Hotel Makati. The chosen beautiful women were **Kit Zobel, Sofia Elizalde, Margarita Delgado, Patsy Halfter, Sevrine Miaihle, Missy Ayala, Junie Pena, Gina Roxas, Barbara Aboitiz, Sigalit Djemal, Christina Bradner, Melissa Elizalde, Mons Tantoco, Sharmila Hiranand, Kerri Uytengsu, Joy Wassmer, Tessa Prieto-Valdes** (who arrived late as usual) and **Irene Francisco.** The la Mer users among them swear by its miracle-like results!

What's great about the crème is that it can also be used by men, as one of the women told us, and it can actually be used not just on the face but on elbows, as well. It hides scars and can cure redness of the skin and even baby rashes.

Now for the most important question: How much does it cost? As the head of La Mer Asia, **Shareen Wong** said, "Can you put a price on beautiful skin?" I guess not! But I will be kind to you and tell you how much it costs: P5,500 for an ounce and P9,900 for two ounces. It will be available in Rustan's Makati starting Nov. 11.

The biggest names in fashion opening in Manila! Two of the biggest names in the fashion industry are opening their boutiques in Manila. First is Louis Vuitton. Although LV has been in Manila for some time now, it is moving to a better address, Greenbelt 4. The launch on Nov. 7 promises to be one of the year's best events. Privy to a bit of the preparation, after the ribbon-cutting ceremony there will be a party at an undisclosed location. A highlight of the event is the attendance of no less than the president and chief executive officer (CEO) of LV, **Yves Carcelle,**

BEAUTY/ G3

MUST-HAVE beauty cream—Crème de la Mer. Available at Rustan's Makati

Crème de la Mer has had a cult following since its initial production in the late '60s

MUCH-AWAITED boutique openings. Louis Vuitton—Nov. 7; Gucci—Nov. 11 at the Greenbelt 4

Beauty cream . . .

From page G2

along with other top officials **Francois Delage** and **Serge Brunschwig**.

On Nov. 11, Manila welcomes back Gucci (one of my favorite brands in the world). The event will be a night to remember as the top man himself, the president and CEO of Gucci International, **Domenico de Sole**, will grace the event along with **Mimi Poon**, president for Gucci-Asia Pacific. They have planned a lot of surprises. What I know is that it will be a lounge party, and the dress code is "sophisticated."

These are the two hottest invites this month. If you get one, don't you dare miss it. Both will surely be exciting events that you simply must attend! Both events will be held at Greenbelt 4.

Must-have shoes—animal print shoes. Do you want to be the leader of the (fashion) pack? Well, these animal print shoes will surely help. They are among the hottest looks of Fall/Winter 2003. The prints bring out the animal in you and make for a bold statement.

Must-have CD—"Closer," Josh Groban. For those of you who have anxiously waited for the second album of **Josh Groban**, the wait is almost over. His second album, "Closer," will be launched in the United States on Nov. 11.

The CD will be available on the same day in Manila. I ordered a copy from friends who are vacationing in the US. I heard two tracks from the album and they didn't disappoint. The hard part about the new album, though, is there are two versions—one for commercial release and the other a limited edition with two extra tracks and a digital video disc of the making of the album. Check with Amazon.com if you prefer the latter.

Can you be my "Friendster"? If you have never heard of "friendster" then read on. It is one of the hottest websites today that one can join and be read and seen in. It was created by **Jonathan Abrams** and launched in March this year. In that short time, over a million users have registered.

MUST-HAVE shoes—animal prints

Unlike chat rooms, this is not intrusive and always asks you, the user, if you want to accept someone as a friend. Tell me who does not want to have more friends.

Also, it is a great way to catch up with long-lost friends.

I was introduced to the site by **Geni Psinakis**, and from her pool of friends I found three people I know and have been wanting to keep in touch with. In the first days of using Friendster, I had only three friends. After a week I had nine, which was not so bad. Well, technically, **Dennis** and **Tessa Valdes** are there, too, so they are among those in my list. I have searched through other people's pages (yes I am very nosy!) and some have more than 800 friends, which is outstanding! Now they are either very popular or really very lonely!

What is amazing about Friendster is that, there is always a connection to those you do not know—something like six degrees of separation. You realize that the world is truly a small place. Another feature is the testimonials people give about you. They describe you as seen through their eyes. The best part is if you do not like the testimonial, you don't have to post it! So do you want to be a Friendster, too? Check out the website at www.friendster.com. Warning: The site is habit-forming!

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

Historic churches as designer clothes

THE BAILE Foundation celebrates its fifth anniversary, in cooperation with Shangri-La Plaza, with "Gayak Pasko," a take-off from the Christmas tradition of "Simbang Gabi."

The foundation is composed of pioneering members of the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company.

"Gayak Pasko" will feature a fashion show at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. It will be followed by a two-week exhibit of designers' creations interpreting the architecture or details of historic churches and cathedrals in the country.

AN EDDIE Baddeo creation

Participating fashion designers are Eddie Baddeo, Steve de Leon, Alfonso Guino-o, Noli Hans, Bobby Novenario, Gerry Katigbak, Judith Pajaro, Oskar Peralta, Bumbee Ramos, Edgar San Diego, Letlet Veloso and Malu Veloso.

Multi-awarded choreographer, Tony Fabella will direct the show. Set design is by Edith Oliveros and Mike San Miguel while lighting design is by Teddy Hilado. Exhibit design is by Johnny Hubilla.

Honorary chair for "Gayak Pasko" is Lovely Tecson Romulo, with Lynnda Gomez and Eddie Elejar as co-chairs.

Menchu Tiglao, president of Baile Foundation, said "Gayak Pasko" aimed to promote awareness of the beauty and history of Catholic churches by fusing art and tradition into the show and exhibit.

The Baile Foundation trustees and officers are Carmen de Jesus Tiglao, president; Rosky Balahadia Hilado, vice-president; Carolina Iñigo Winebrenner, secretary; Lolita Adea Valdez, treasurer; and trustees: Lenora Alano Cabili, Erlynn Bernardez Campos, Maribel Carag Dario, Johnny Hubilla, Rosalinda Anido Gomez, Norma Javier, Eduardo Elejar Mendoza and Edith Oliveros.

HOW TO KEEP FOODS FRESHER IN YOUR FRIDGE

MANY of us are guilty. Remember the last time you dug around your fridge looking for the mustard? What else did you find? 3-day old spaghetti maybe? Or was it lettuce with wilting leaves? Or three lonely hotdogs leftover from the last bag you bought?

But with a little extra planning, you can make your fridge more organized. As soon as you come from the supermarket or wet market, divide your meats into meal portions and freeze them in plastic containers, so you don't have to thaw everything when you only need some. Do the same with your leftover food. Make sure your containers are clear so you know what's inside each one.

Zip-lock bags are also a good alternative, and they're easy to fit inside the corners of your freezer. However, these can be quite expensive in the long run, so make sure you wash and re-use them.

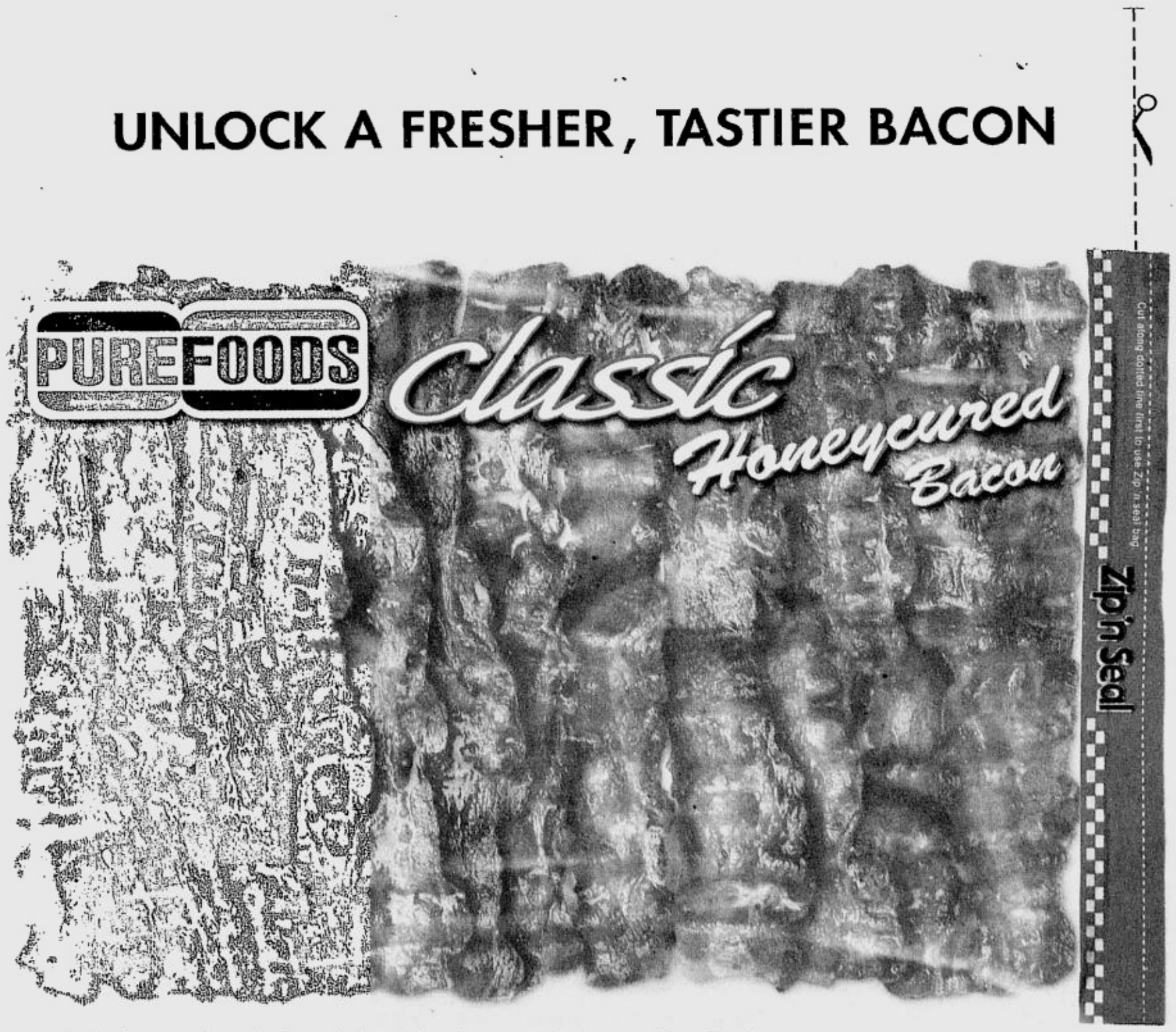
An even better option is to buy products that actually come in resealable packaging, like the new Zip 'n' Seal bag that Purefoods Bacon comes in. It's the first one of its kind in refrigerated meats, but when you realize how convenient it is, you'll wonder why no one thought of it before. According to the marketing guys at Purefoods-Hormel, their company is really serious about food safety. That's why their hotdogs have Best-Before seals, and now, their bacon comes in resealable packs.

Your Purefoods bacon comes completely sealed and you just cut along the edge of the pack. There's a Zip-lock seal there that you can open and reseal every time you cook a few pieces of bacon. This way, you can ensure that your bacon stays as fresh and delicious as the day you bought it, even if it gets buried behind the rest of the stuff in the freezer.

Learn these little tricks, and your fridge and freezer will soon become a model of freshness and neatness. Happy homemaking!

ADVT

UNLOCK A FRESHER, TASTIER BACON



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1. Cut along the dotted line the first time you use it. 2. Reseal your Zip 'n' Seal bag to keep your bacon fresh and delicious.

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Upon reloading, you will get a text advisory stating your new balance which includes the free additional credit you've received. The validity period found at the back of each call card will apply.

Hurry, load up now! Save up and be the man! This promo is good from November 1, 2003 to January 31, 2004 only.

FREE credit will automatically be given when you reload between November 1-15, 2003.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4548, Series of 2003.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
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ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

A death in the family can be devastating—even traumatic—for children, as things can never be 'normal' again

A child's grief

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Contributor

"*BATA pa 'yan. Hindi pa niyan naiintindihan.*" When a family suffers a loss, a child is often neglected. And yet the child is often the most affected by grief.

When death occurs, things can no longer be "normal." A life has to be built without the loved one who passed away.

Surviving family members need to make sense of what has happened, get over the chaos and acquire a new normalcy that will enable survivors to find new meaning in their lives and move on.

Grief can be a complicated process for children and adolescents. Going through different developmental stages, every child creates his/her own meaning of life that is tied to his/her development and experience. Whenever a loss occurs, such as death, that meaning is disrupted. For some children, it can be devastating and even traumatic.

Five years ago, my eldest daughter was 7 when her 4-year-old brother passed away. For many months after he died, she refused to be alone in a room. Up to two years after his death, she would be inconsolable every time I had to go away on a business trip.

A dam breaks

It took two sessions with a child psychologist before she suddenly had catharsis. Like a dam that broke, my 9-year-old finally let go of all the hurt and fears she had kept in her heart for two years. Even now, questions about her brother's early demise crop up in conversations.

A child's grief is cyclical. It repeats itself at every developmental stage. Sometimes there are triggers—birthdays, holidays, milestones, a troubling time. At seven, my daughter's comprehension of her brother's death was only up to a certain level. At 10, she would ask questions about the nature of his illness and the circumstances surrounding his passing. Now at 12, she is philosophical about his early death.

As parents, we should not tire of answering our children's questions. We should be patient and address their queries at a level they can understand. When our son lay in a coma, we explained to our daughter how his systems shut down so he would no longer feel the pain of his illness.

If in explaining you feel that it is appropriate to add a spiritual dimension, then go ahead and do so. Do not, however, use euphemisms ("*Lola* is just sleeping") or say that God took away your loved one, especially if you are explaining death to a very young child.

A young man I know was told by his mother that God called his father home because they were short of angels in heaven. He was 5 when his father died in a vehicular accident. When the young man became an adolescent, he began to rebel for no reason, giving his widowed mother much heartache.

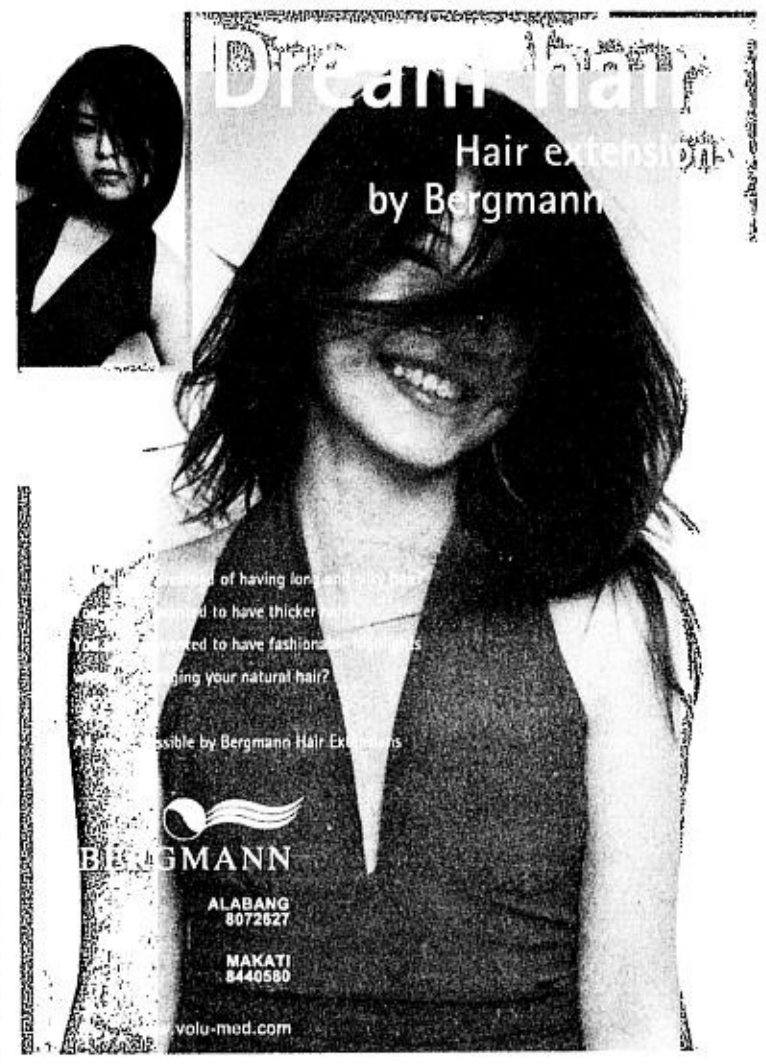
At 13 and in therapy, he confided that he was angry at God for taking away his father. "What kind of loving God would do that?" he told the psychologist.

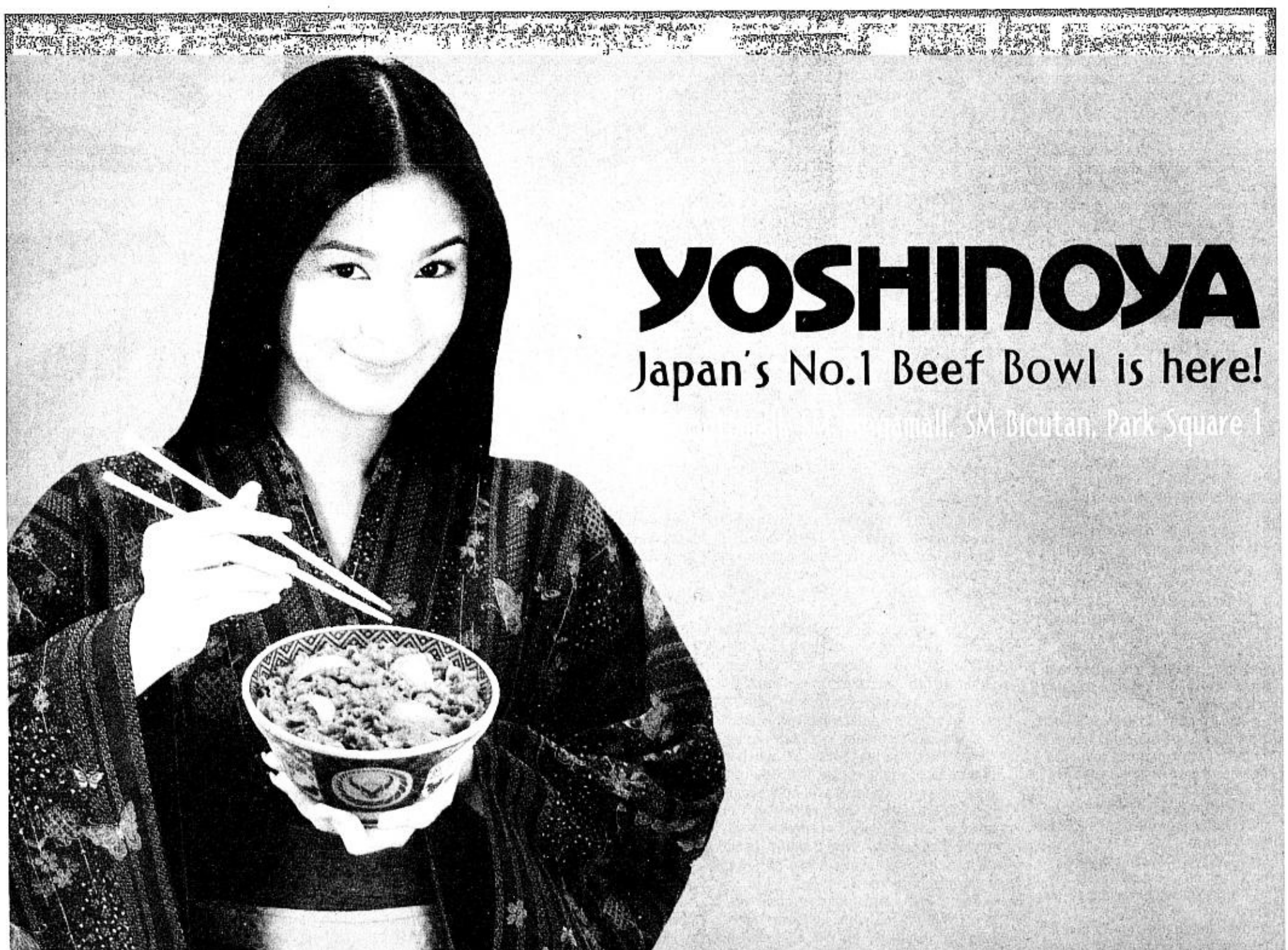
Long-term burden

One of the students in my grief class at the Ateneo de Manila University carried the burden of his grandmother's passing for many years. His *lola* passed away suddenly on his eighth birthday and he was not able to say goodbye. For many years after she died, he kept the toy cars she gave him under his pillow.

As a teenager, he joined his school's varsity football team and channeled his hurt into the game. He was one of the school's best athletes. "I would offer each victory to my *lola*," he said in one of his papers. Two years ago, at 20, he finally bade her goodbye when he poured all his feelings into a letter that he buried beside her grave in the cemetery in

A CHILD'S/ H2





Filipinos celebrate Mass in Padre Pio Shrine

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

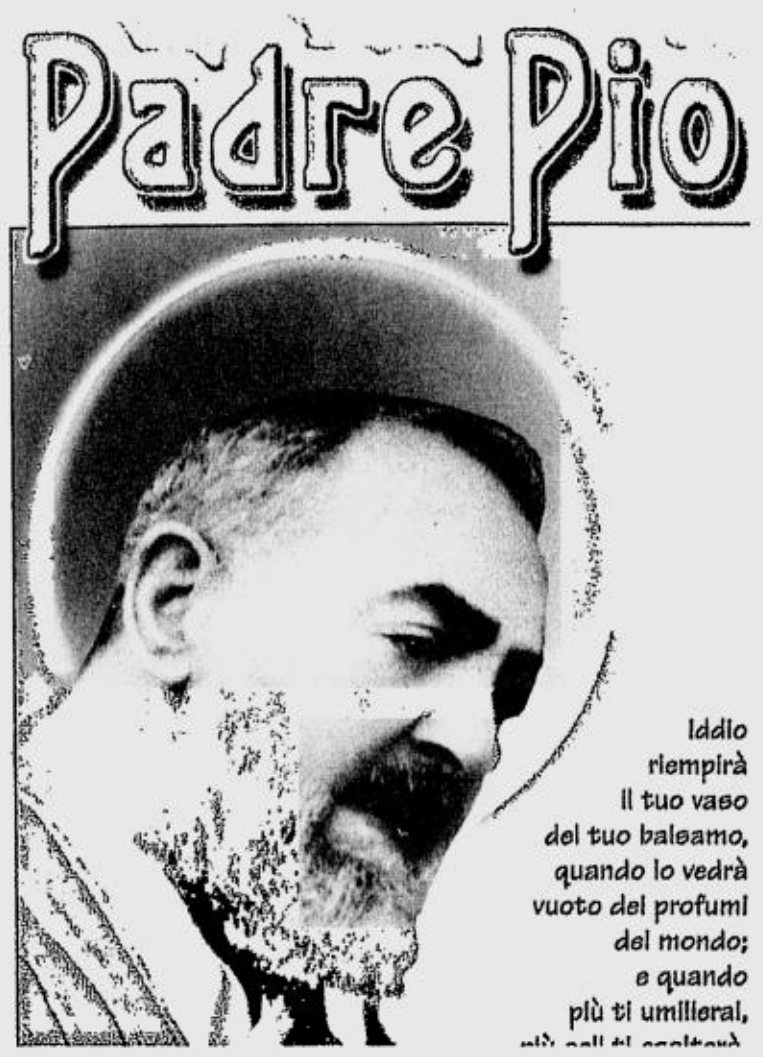
LAST Oct. 16, we were in the church of Our Lady of Grace in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy celebrating Holy Mass with Fr. Vic Robles and Msgr. Joel Tubig, together with two American priests, as presiders. The solemn event was significant because we were venerating St. Padre Pio—some asked for his help in their healing, and others thanked him for answered prayers.

For businessman Florentino Torres, president and chief executive officer of Furnitureville Inc., it was a journey of thanksgiving. On Nov. 5, 1975, he had an illness that would have been fatal. Through the intercession of Padre Pio, he is still alive. He learned about the saint when some nuns visited him in the hospital and gave him a prayer to Padre Pio.

I was there to thank the saint for helping my brother Pompeyo Darang, Jr. get well from kidney disease which required dialysis two times a week. My brother can now walk unaided, eat and speak louder.

Canonized on June 16, 2002, the devotion to the new saint continues to attract people from all over the world. While we were in the shrine, hundreds of people streamed into the church. We were able to pray before his tomb in the basement of the church. A bigger church is being built behind the old church to accommodate the millions who come every year.

FR. VIC Robles (center) celebrates Mass with Msgr. Joel Tubig and two American priests in the San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy shrine of Padre Pio



The stigmatist

St. Padre Pio bore the five wounds of Jesus Christ on his hands, feet and body for 50 years, making him the first stigmatized priest in the history of the church.

He celebrated Mass for more than two hours and was known to have said, "It would be easier for the earth to carry on without the sun than without the Holy Mass."

Francesco Forgione, who would become Padre Pio, was born to simple, hardworking farming folks on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Southern Italy. His parents, Orazio Forgione and Maria Guisseppa de Nunzio, were extremely poor.

He was tutored privately until he joined the Capuchin Friars at 15. Of feeble health but strong will, he completed his studies and was ordained in 1910.

On Sept. 20, 1918, Christ's five wounds appeared on his body. Hordes were attracted to his confessional and many more received his spiritual guidance through correspondence. His whole life was marked by long hours of prayer and continual austerity.

His letters to his spiritual directors revealed how he suffered physically and spiritually. They also revealed his very deep union with God, his burning love for the Blessed Eucharist and our Blessed Lady. After over half a century of intense suffering and constant apostolic activity in San Giovanni Rotondo, he died on Sept. 23, 1968.

After a public funeral that drew almost 100,000, he was entombed in the crypt of Our Lady of Grace Church. People flock to his tomb from all parts of the world and many testify to spiritual and temporal graces received.

Padre Pio healing Masses

The Spirit of Love Community will hold a healing Mass of St. Padre Pio on Nov. 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the Manila Seedling Bank, Quezon Avenue corner Edsa. A relic of Padre Pio will be presented for veneration.

At the Greenbelt Chapel, Fr. Prex Fajardo recites the prayer to Padre Pio 15 minutes before the Masses on Thursday and Saturday. The schedule of Masses are: Thursday—7:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.; and Saturday—12:15 p.m.; 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Those wishing to buy the book "Padre Pio Profile" or donate to the new church in San Giovanni Rotondocan may call 6343668 or 6350875.

'An Easter People'

Get the second book of Bishop Chito Tagle, "An Easter People: Our Christian Vocation to be Messengers of Hope." It is a compilation of lectures to two religious orders of nuns during retreats in 1993, 1995 and 1997.

The book is distributed by Anvil Publishing and is also available at all outlets of Jesuit Communications. Call 4265971 or e-mail jcf@admu.edu.ph

Operation Smile

Maryknoll Classes '66 and '70 are coordinating with Babes Narciso for the "Operation Smile" project Nov. 5-8 in Benguet General Hospital. Children and adults will be operated on to correct harelip.

Marian pilgrimage

Gloria Gelua and friends are organizing a pilgrimage to Marian shrines in Cagayan and Isabela with Banawe Tours. In the itinerary are Our Lady of Piat in Cagayan and Our Lady of Guibang in Guibang, Isabela. Text 0919-6773544 or call 5336903.

Prayer Warriors

The Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls (PWHS) will hold a Holy Mass for the dead at 9:45 a.m. today at the Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz (Binondo Church). Msgr. Josefino Ramirez and Fr. Jojo Zerrudo will concelebrate the Mass.

PWHS is also organizing a one–day spiritual formation for members and others 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 22, RVM Sisters Complex, 214 N. Domingo St., QC.

The P100 registration fee covers snack, lunch and handouts. Call 5310394 or 5312157 local 101.

Centering prayer

A Centering Prayer Workshop will be held Nov. 14-16 at the St. Joseph Marello Retreat House. Call 8424030.

Novena

Devotees of Our Lady of Biglang Awa in Metro Manila will hold a Triduum of Masses venerating Our Lady of Biglang Awa, patroness of Marinduque. Masses will be held at the St. Paul's Seminary Chapel at 5:30 p.m., Nov. 7; 4 p.m., Nov. 8; and 4 p.m., Nov. 9.

In charge are groups from Sta. Cruz, Torrijos, Buenavista, Boac, Mogpog and Gasan towns, together with Marinducare Foundation, Biglang Awa Foundation plus youth and professionals from the province.

Cavite patroness

Masses will be held on Nov. 9, feast day of the Nuestra Señora de Soledad de Porta Vaga, patroness of Cavite. Bishop Chito Tagle will officiate at the 9 a.m. High Mass at San Roque Church, Cavite City.

Originating in Spain, the devotion venerates the "Soledad" as the Sorrowful Mother. She is portrayed contemplating the wounds on her Son's body during His Passion and Death.

Fr. Vir Mendoza reported that his mother, Concha Saenz Mendoza, 81, had a successful operation to remove the mass in her ovary. He said Bishop Tagle danced in the *caracol* for Our Lady of Pillar on Oct. 11, the day of the operation, for the healing of Father Vir's mother.

Tita Concha is well. Thanks to the intercession of the Virgin Mother. Happy feast day, Mama Mary

Those who wish to help Dexter Marbella pay for his dialysis can text his mother 0920-5957384.

St. John of the Cross

A series of lectures on St. John of the Cross will be held Nov. 22 and 29, and Dec. 6 and 13.

The lectures, "Discovering St. John of the Cross, A Lecture Series," are organized by St. John of the Cross and the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, St. Teresa of Jesus Community.

Sr. Presentacion Tiotuyco, OCDS, president of the OCDS, St. Teresa of Jesus Community; and Bro. Lorenzo Fernandez Jr., OCD, project director, said the lectures would be held 4-6 p.m. at the Maryhill School of Theology Auditorium, E. Rodriguez ave., QC (Nov. 22 and 29, and Dec. 6) and at the Community Hall of the Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, Cor. 5th st. and J. Rodriguez, New Manila, QC (Dec. 13).

Lecturers and topics include professor Boy Calasanz, Ateneo de Manila University, "St. John of the Cross: Master of Light and Love"; Fr. Ignacio Read, OCD, "Dark Night: A Contemporary Experience?"; Fr. Thomas Green, SJ, "St. John of the Cross: The Great Spiritual Director"; and professor Macario Ofilada, University of Santo Tomas, "St. John of the Cross: Beauty as Nothing, Beauty as Everything."

Lectures are free of charge but admission tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis:

Nov. 3: OCDS House of Prayer; Nov. 4, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish Office, 5th St., New Manila, QC; and Maryhill School of Theology, 14th st. cor. Gilmore St., New Manila, QC. Call 7222424, 4138780, 7242978 or 0918-9277741.

E-mail ocdsmla@edsamail.com.ph.

St. Padre Pio bore the five wounds of Jesus Christ for 50 years, making him the first stigmatized priest in church history

How do adult attitudes affect a child's grief process?

WHAT you can do to help facilitate your child's grieving process:

- Get as much support for yourself as possible. The stronger you are, the more help you can be to your child.
- If you are very distraught, allow others to step in and help the child.
- Give accurate information appropriate to the child's developmental level. This requires a very good judgment and is incredibly difficult when death involves suicide or violence, or the death of a child. The child's first impression of death is very critical, and that is when adults are least prepared to tell it well.
- Allow the child to express feelings and show acceptance. Be a role model for the child in expressing your own feelings. Share memories of the deceased.
- Try to make expressions of affection to the child as often as you did before the loss.
- Try to avoid any new losses (moving homes, changing caregivers, or getting rid of a pet) for as long as possible.
- Give the child an object to remember the deceased by (a possession, a photograph, a piece of clothing).
- Encourage the child to do artwork and/or writing to express feelings and come to terms with the loss.
- If you have more than one child, make a point of periodically spending some time alone with each child (go to the mall, eat out) to allow the child to ask questions and express feelings.
- Read up on childhood bereavement and do not be afraid to get professional help if you think you need it.

From "Grief in Family Context," by Peggy Bruno spring semester, 1997

A child's grief

From page H1

their home province.

Rituals are important in a child's healing process. Especially when death is sudden, children need an opportunity to express their sadness. Encourage children to have a journal, to write, draw or paint after the loss.

Telling stories helps organize and concretize the experience for children, particularly the very young. Dr. Kathleen Gilbert, a professor at the University of Indiana who teaches a grief course, says, "A painful event becomes more real when it is made explicit in language. Frightening elements can be made less fearful when organized in the narrative structure of a personal story. Children and adolescents need to tell their grief story so they can make sense of the grief experience. Working with a caring, trusted adult to tell their story gives them a sense of power and control over their lives."

Loss can be both positive and negative. Often it gives you a kind of compassion you would not have had otherwise. However, for parents and caregivers, it is important to help facilitate in a positive and supportive manner a child's transition from grief to a place of hope.

Psychologists Martinson and Campos (1991) found that, for adolescents whose siblings died of cancer seven to nine years before, good communication in the family, sharing the death experience with others, expressing pleasure in the siblings' company and the family's emotional support contributed to a more, positive long-term outlook on life.

On a personal note, five years down the road, my 12-year-old is one of the wisest and more sensitive adolescents I know. Yes, in spite of the pain, grief can be a good thing, too.

E-mail the author at cathyguballa@yahoo.com

She realized her husband is gay

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I have just realized that my husband of five years is gay. I had suspicions before, but had no proof except for our non-existent sex life. Recently, I've discovered a lot to prove his sexual orientation—magazines of the "Playgirl" type, calls to his "male friends" and Internet chats. The only thing missing is for me to catch him "in the act," which would be difficult because he's very careful.

I haven't confronted him about it, because he always gets angry when I tell him anything that might sound like a criticism. (I think, though, that his sensitivity about his image is precisely his way of avoiding such a confrontation.) He is very defensive about almost everything these days, and I think he could feel that I already know a lot about him. How can I make him confide in me?

My mind tells me that I should stand by him no matter what, but I don't think I could live with this mental and emotional torture for long. I am disgusted with him whenever I imagine him making love with another guy. Since I came to the conclusion that he's a homosexual, I haven't eaten or slept well, and I've lost 5 pounds in just a few weeks.

ABIGAIL

Although the evidence you have so far may only suggest his homosexual orientation, several other factors make it likely that he expresses his homosexuality not only through fantasies but also in actuality.

For one, gays are generally very sexual people. And, since you've been married for only five years, I'd guess his age to be below 40. Gay or straight, a person of that age has a strong sex drive. So how or with whom has he been satisfying that need if, as you said, yours have been a sexless marriage?

In a way, it is a blessing that he does not have sex with you, because that puts you out of harm's way. If he is indeed gay and is a regular in internet chat rooms, that could mean he is not satisfied with his present homosexual partners and is, consciously or subconsciously, fishing for new and more liaisons.

He's bound to catch (if he has not already) some sexually-transmitted diseases (and I mean disease, like syphilis or AIDS or warts that cause cervical cancer, not just some small-time infections), which he could pass on to you.

Had his homosexuality been confined to his mind and heart only, or even extends to speech and other mannerisms, I'd say you should stand by him and his harmless ways. I'd even advise you to go a very long extra mile had he confessed to you his homosexuality, asked for your understanding and aid, and shows real efforts to reform.

But he has done none of that. Instead, he has been evasive and belligerent whenever your remarks come close to the subject of gender.

It is not only sex that is missing in your marriage. Love and respect are not there, either. Even if he were gay but loves and respects you as a person, your relationship might be called a marriage, but it could also easily be, after these five years, a beautiful friendship or partnership.

From where I sit, however, he has kept your marriage not because he loves you, but only because your marriage disguises his homosexuality. Such an act not only shows lack of love; it also shows grave disrespect for you as another human being.

I agree with you that it may be best to end your marriage. I suggest you consult a lawyer who specializes in family law. She or he could better guide you on the legal implications of your situation, and advise you on the hiring of private investigators to gather proof of your husband's true sexual identity.

If your husband has been a homosexual before your marriage and has hid that from you, then your marriage may be annulled. Your marriage may be annulled, too, if sex has been totally absent between you—that is, if your marriage has not been consummated.

And, even if you can't prove that he has been gay before your wedding, but you can prove that he has been engaging in homosexual acts during your marriage, that is ground for legal separation.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Customer is first in flower shop

IF THERE is one store that knows flowers by heart, it's The Flower Farm Corporation.

In the flower business for over a decade now—from cultivation to design and arrangements-Flower Farm has stores at the basement of Glorietta 4, Greenhills, Alabang and Legaspi Village in Makati City.

Ging delos Reyes, the person behind the successful venture, said location of branches were chosen for the customer's convenience. She said, the company not only guaranteed superior quality of flowers, but also excellent service. The Flower Farm, she stressed always aimed for customer satisfaction.

Every ornamental plant bought at The Flower Farm, for instance, comes with a care card. De los Reyes wanted to make sure buyers got to enjoy their purchases for a long while by providing useful and easy-to-follow caring tips.

Flower Farm is open Monday-Saturday at the basement of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center. Call 7527206.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2735 series 2003.

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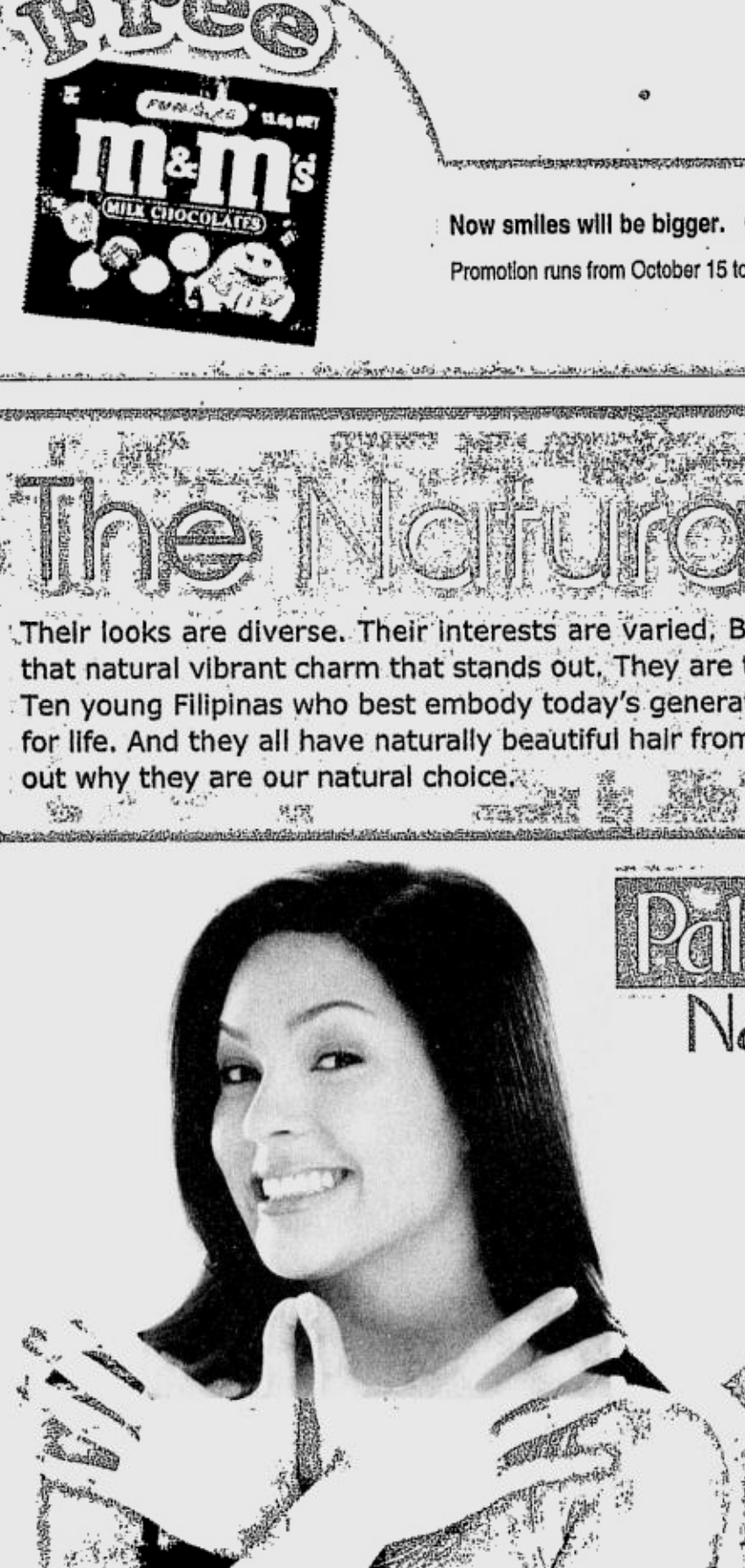
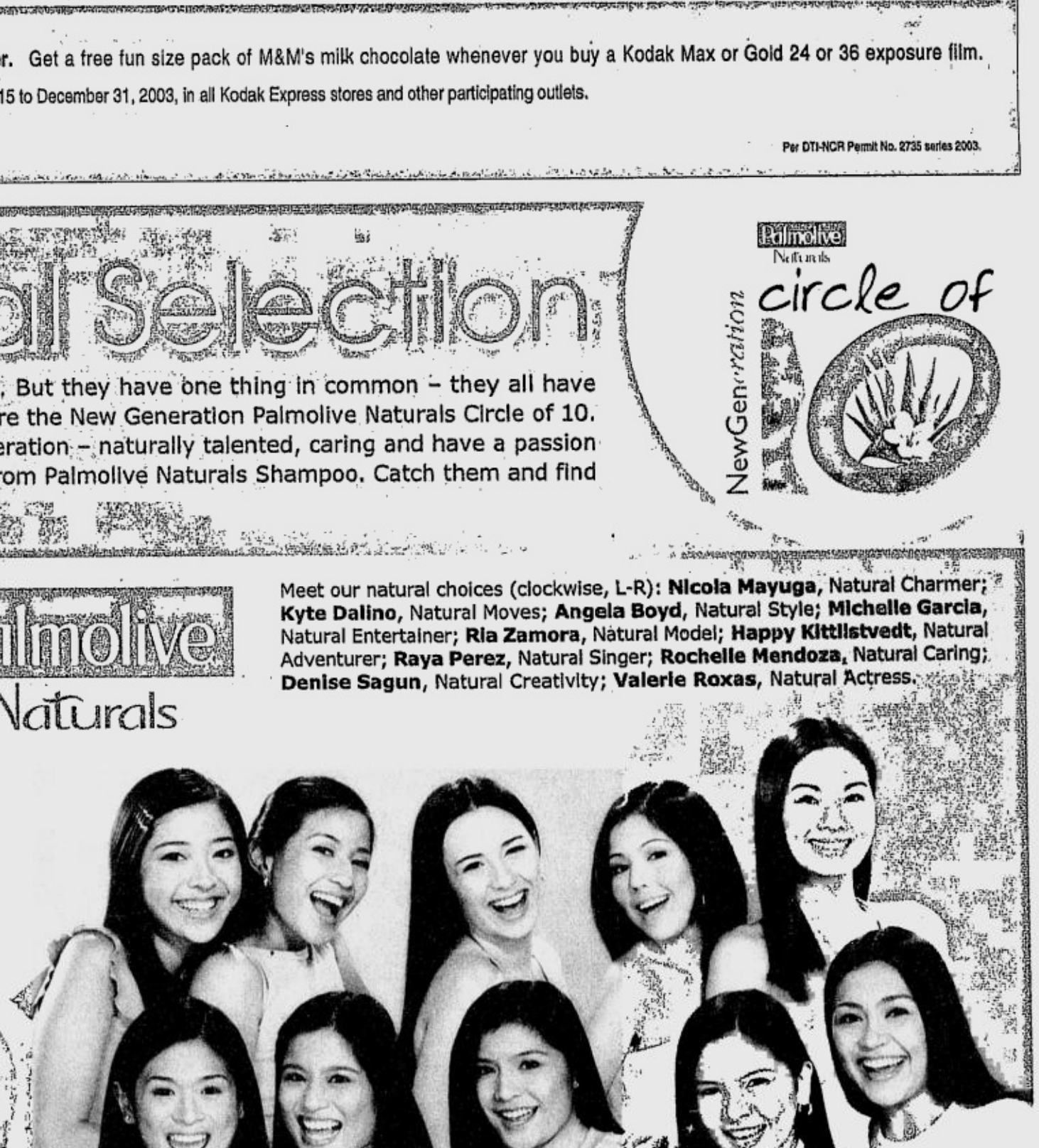
Palmolive Naturals NewGeneration circle of 10

Palmolive Naturals

Meet our natural choices (clockwise, L-R): **Nicola Mayuga**, Natural Charmer; **Kyte Dalino**, Natural Moves; **Angela Boyd**, Natural Style; **Michelle Garcia**, Natural Entertainer; **Ria Zamora**, Natural Model; **Happy Kittilstvedt**, Natural Adventurer; **Raya Perez**, Natural Singer; **Rochelle Mendoza**, Natural Caring; **Denise Sagun**, Natural Creativity; **Valerie Roxas**, Natural Actress.





Per BFAD Permit No. 0700, Series of 2003.

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LA MER brand manager Toni Abad with Patxi Zobel and Sevrine Miaihle

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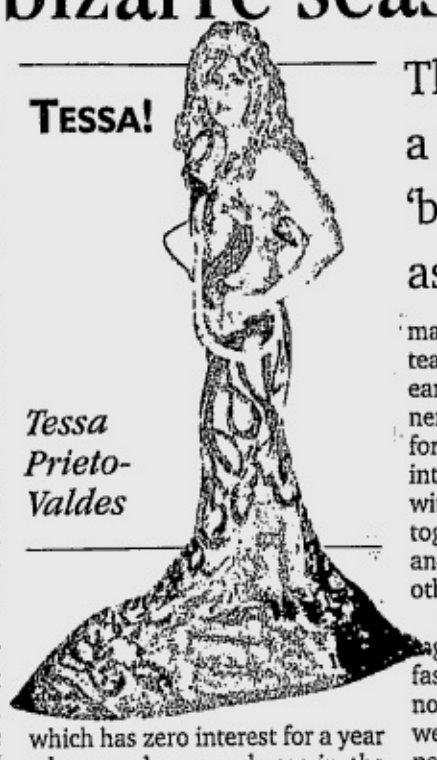
GEMS among the Cartier gems—Leah Puyat, Sea Princess and Emilie Sy

This bizarre season of bazaars



Tessa Prieto-Valdes

There is as much a case for 'bazaaring out' as pigging out

I AM almost "bazaared out" and to think we have just passed Halloween, my favorite holiday next to Christmas. It seems the bazaar season starts earlier and earlier each year, so much so that I actually miss malling and window-shopping.

These days I spend my weekends either at the Polo Club or the InterCon, the two stalwarts of the bazaar crowd, scouting around and checking out the things I forgot to buy the week before. Actually, it is rare that bazaar fare goes beyond the usual export overruns, beads and bangles of all kinds and more clothes and accessories than you ever dreamed possible.

More interestingly, many bazaar items seem to bring out that sense of déjà vu in you, vaguely resembling the same things that you bought last year. I always just end up buying food and snacks. Those free samples always do the trick.

But even if the stalls tend to be selling the same items, I still go because of the convenience of shopping for a variety of gifts under one roof. I can cover more shopping items per square meter in a bazaar than in a mall. To make it even more tempting, credit cards are already accepted in the bazaars. I can hardly wait to use my new HSBC Red Card, which has zero interest for a year when used on purchases in the shops belonging to the Stores Specialists Inc. group. Now is that too tempting or what?

As the old saying goes, if the busy bee shopper does not have time to go to the mall, why not bring the mall to them? (With apologies to Mohammed and his mountain, of course!)

Watch bazaar

Ever heard of a private bazaar? Well, in a special event to entice some friends to do early Christmas shopping, Cartier planned a tea party in my house one week earlier last month. The forerunners of French fashion transformed my chameleon playroom into a Cartier showroom, framed with giant black-and-white photographs of **Jackie O, Edward** and the **Duchess of Wales** and other icons of past high society.

Upon seeing the setup and doing a quick walk-through, just fast enough to make sure I would not be subjected to temptation, I went to check on our ever-dependable caterer, Cirkulo Restaurant. My yoga buddy-cum-food expert, **Malu Gamboa**, served Mediterranean dishes and desserts to keep our guests indulging while thinking of which watch to buy or pen to procure, or even which diamond ring to shock Daddy with. Seeing the Cartier watches up close and personal while enjoying the delicious food really makes one desire them even more. The Cartier stuff, that is!

My husband **Dennis** decided that afternoon to take the kids out shopping in a toy store. An expert accountant, he had clearly figured out two kids in a toy store would be by far the cheaper alternative to me at Cartier.

I guess the women of this century don't need to count on their spouses anymore for the small luxuries in life. With women empowerment, we can afford to pamper ourselves, although it is still more romantic to get a gift as a token of infinite love every once in a while (hint, hint, hint!).

The brand manager of Cartier Philippines, **Luzanne Manlapit**, even had to play hostess to one of the husbands while waiting for the wife's credit card to clear by phone. The bank must have been wondering why a big credit card purchase was being made from a residence. Since it was the wife's credit card, this particular husband was just happy to enjoy the free food. To borrow a line from **Maurice Arcache**, my lips are sealed!

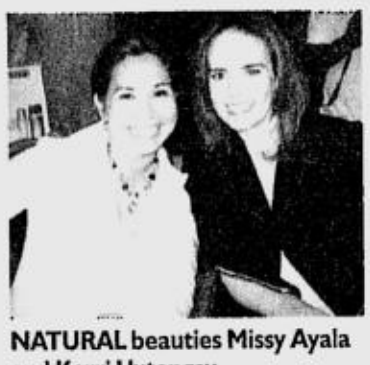
I did have an interesting mix of guests that afternoon. I had the honor of having some diplomats over. Portuguese Ambassador **Joao Caetano da Silva** and his wife came to inspect the jewelry but didn't stay long because they were in the middle of the Portuguese festival being celebrated in Rustan's.

Which reminds me of another story, so permit me this small digression.

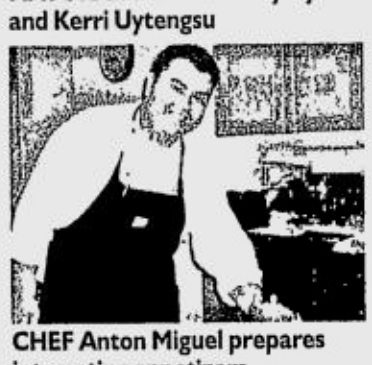
Before the Portuguese ambassador, the highest-ranking official that had ever set foot in my house was former President **Joseph Estrada**. That was back in my old house, when a dinner was set to let Erap meet some key INQUIRER editors. Clearly way before that nasty business with *jueteng* and houses named Boracay came about. Since then, no other high-ranking diplomat or official has visited me. Hmmm, that gives me an idea for a party!

THIS/13

CLASSIC ladies with great skin, Kit Zobel and Margarita Delgado



NATURAL beauties Missy Ayala and Kerri Uytengsu



CHEF Anton Miguel prepares interesting appetizers.

TRAVEL

Carlo Rosario A. Carreiano

Cry freedom in South Africa

...IN their territory...

Text and photos by Antonio M. Claparols
Contributor

OUR JOURNEY back to South Africa began in Durban for the 5th World Parks Congress on Sept. 8-17. It was a journey filled with emotion. (The congress was in many ways reminiscent of the past as the extractive industry tried to control the outcome of the Durban Accord and Action Plan. After 10 days of tense deliberations, debates and dialogues, victory loomed on the horizon. At last, the Durban Accord and Action Plan were finalized.)

After the heated debates, we traveled to the Kruger National Park, which then South African President Paul Kruger declared in 1898 as a national reserve and protected area. The park covers more than two million hectares governed by the law of the wild, populated by predator and prey, where humans come second to wildlife.

Our sojourn took us to the Blyde River Canyon, the third largest canyon in the world (after the Grand Canyon in the United States and the canyon bordering Central Africa).

We saw the magic of Mpumalanga—the mountains, mining towns, waterfalls and valleys. South Africa's great high veld plateau ends at an escarpment from which thundering waterfalls flow from forested cliffs and the horizon undulates under the vast sky.

Situated near the borders of Mozambique and the Kingdom of Swaziland, it is a province of subtropical savannahs, deep ravines, emerald valleys, crystal-clear streams, teeming wildlife—and a fascinating history.

Kruger was an avid hunter who realized that the wildlife and the environment were fast getting destroyed and that the British empire was going to invade his beloved South Africa for its rich gold reserves.

In 1899 he declared war against the British empire. In this Anglo-Boer War, his 40,000 farmers fought more than 500,000 English troops until 1902. The first year was a success as his untrained farmers outfought the skilled army of the Union Jack. The issue: gold.

This—mining vs the conservation movement—was among the issues that heated the Durban Congress. It's true: Those who do not know history will be damned to repeat it.

In the second year of the Anglo-Boer War, South Africa's farmers began to lose, and on the third year, Kruger traveled to Europe to seek the commitment of other countries to send arms and troops.

But no troops were sent, and the mighty British empire eventually defeated the farmers of South Africa.

On the other side of the world, Filipino Katipuneros were winning battle after battle against Spain in the war for independence, only to fight a new power, the American military, that defeated the Spanish Armada in Manila Bay.

Yes, the Philippines and South Africa share many similarities. We are both rich in natural resources, and there are historical lessons from which we both can learn.

I could not imagine how beautiful and rich South Africa could be so poor. I could only compare it, sadly, with our beautiful and rich Pearl of the Orient.

Our journey also took us to Cape Town and Robben Island, a monument for those who suffered in the dark days of apartheid and who struggled, led by, among others, Nelson Mandela, to be free after nearly 50 years of repression that the world will never forget.

Mandela later became president of the country he has served so well.

Robben Island, where Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years, was actually the most touching point of our trip. Our guide, Bukiwe Sofuthi, herself once a political prisoner there, told us her harrowing story and those of the many who were imprisoned and tortured for speaking their mind and devoting their heart and soul to the struggle for justice and peace. Her eyes filled with tears when she said she had forgiven, but would never forget.

On our tour of the island, we saw the solitary house of Robert Sobukwe, who was detained separately from Mandela and the rest of the political prisoners. Sobukwe, acknowledged as one of the sources of inspiration of the Black Consciousness Movement, had broken away from the African National Congress and formed the more militant Pan Africanist Congress.

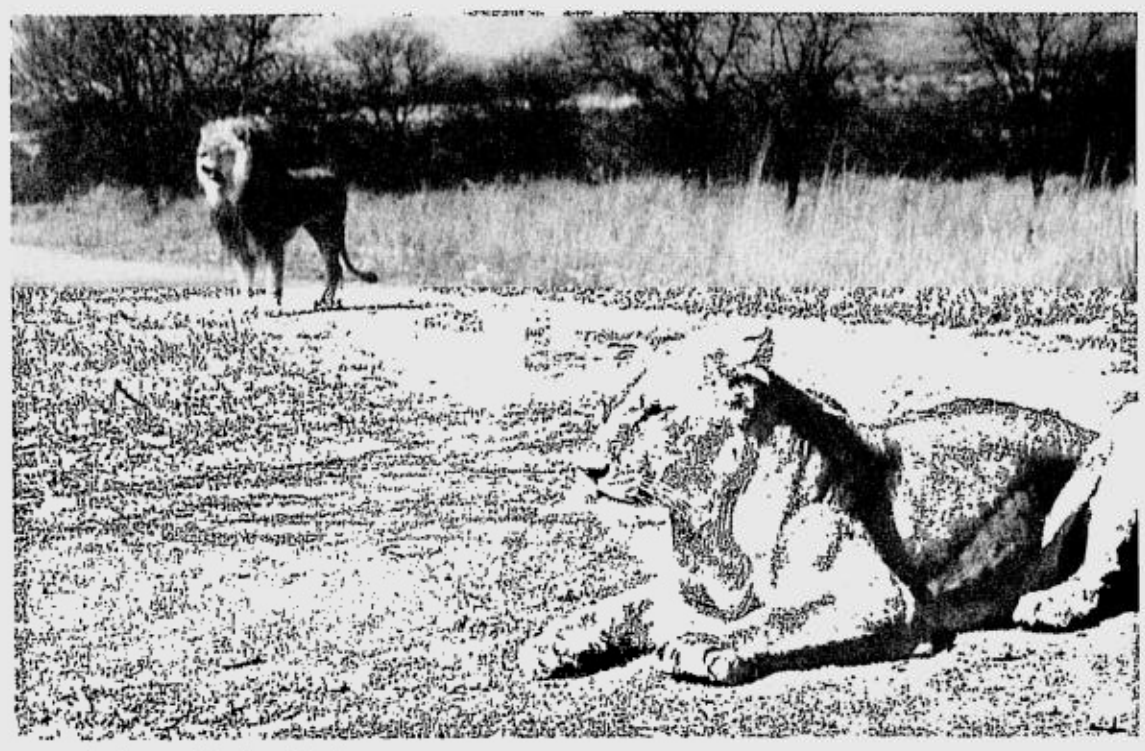
Today, Robben Island is a beacon for the worldwide fight for freedom and democracy—an enduring symbol of the strength of the human spirit.

We ended our journey with the conviction that all creatures have the right to freedom—all human beings regardless of race, as much as the birds that fly the skies and the dolphins who swim the seas. And that as human beings and citizens—not owners!—of the earth, we must learn from the past so we will not be condemned to repeat it.

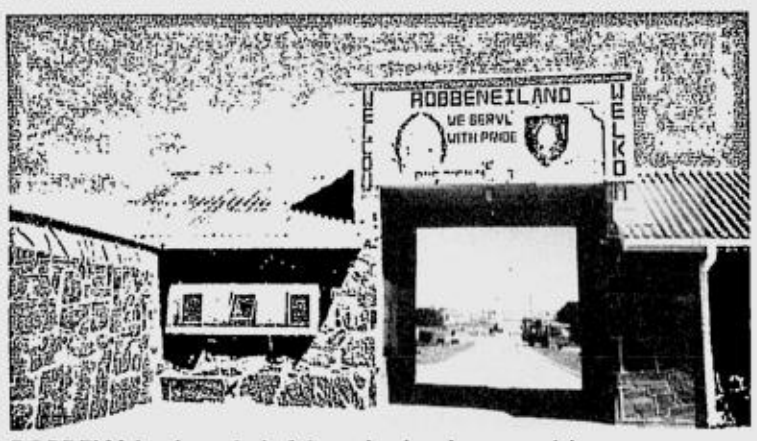
We only have one world. Let us protect it.

A Tibetan poem says it well: "The center of heaven, the core of the earth/The heart of the world/Fenced round with snow/The heartland of all rivers, where the mountains are high and the land is pure."

The author is president of the Ecological Society of the Philippines and regional councilor of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).—ED.



...AT the Kruger National Park



ROBBEN Island, symbol of the unbroken human spirit

NATURAL wonder: Table Mountain in Cape Town

TRAVELBRIEFS

Double treat

THERE'S still time for a memorable vacation at the Westin Philippine Plaza, which is offering a "Double Halloween Treat" until Nov. 10.

Couples and their children can book one night and get the second night or second room free. The offer is available to local residents only, and subject to availability.

For inquiries, call 832-6991 to 95 or 551-5555, or e-mail reservation@westinmanila.com.

Wellness tour

TAKE a rejuvenation break from stressful city life with Inscribe Tours' "beauty and wellness tour" on Nov. 15 and 22.

The day-long tour combines relaxation techniques, organic cuisine, a visit to an apiary (bee farm) with its all-natural bee products, plus spa and massage treatments—all amid the lush scenery and cool climate of the upland Tagaytay, Mendez and Silang in Cavite.

Participants get to pick their own lettuce and learn about different dips and dressings, before tucking into a hearty, nutritious lunch at the famed Gourmet Farms Café.

The itinerary includes visits to some of the area's most relaxing spots—the Nursia Ecology Wholeness Center, Ilog Maria Farm and Nurture Tropical Spa.

For reservations, call Marie at 840-5912, 575-8370 or 0919-8184697. Slots are limited.

KL swing

FOR half the price, you can take a three-day, two-night swing in Malaysia with the Kuala Lumpur Getaway Tour organized by the Subic Legend Resorts & Casinos.

The package tour costing P10,999++ per person includes round trip Subic-Kuala Lumpur-Subic economy airfare via Air Asia airlines, accommodation at the four-star Grand Seasons Hotel and Genting Highlands, a half-day guided tour of Kuala Lumpur, two breakfasts, one dinner and two-way hotel-airport transfers.

Flights start from and return to the Subic Bay International Airport in Zambales.

A melting pot of Malay, Indian and Chinese races, as well as various ethnic groups, Malaysia is dubbed as a destination that is "Truly Asia."

Kuala Lumpur, its capital city, is home to the 88-story Petronas Twin Towers, and various historical, cultural and culinary attractions. Genting Highlands, situated 55 kilometers north of KL, is a mountain resort that features theme parks, a casino, cable cars and family-oriented recreational amenities.

Passengers may arrange a side trip to the nearby city-state of Singapore for an additional fee. Price is exclusive of taxes, surcharges, insurance fees and other charges.

For inquiries, call Subic Legend Hotel at 732-9888.

OK AND IN LUCK
Hazel Weber, the 125,000th Filipino visitor to Singapore this year, gets the works at the Lion City's Changi Airport. Under the "You're OK" incentive program launched by the Singapore Tourism Board on Sept. 1, she won, among other things, two round-trip tickets to the city inclusive of hotel stay and S$1,000 in cash. Hazel and her daughter Annika arrived in Singapore on Oct. 8 via Philippine Airlines. That's her husband Heiko, who was himself in the city on business, holding their child, and Rocson Chang, STB area director for the Philippines and Brunei.

JACINTO guests Luli de Leon and Kathy Litton

CHECKING OUT Cartier's men's watches—Anton Barretto and Dennis Valdes

COOL couple Patrick and Ingrid Go

PRETTY helpers Crissy Miguel and Thea Jacinto

GORGEOUS friends Sigalit Djemal, Junie Peña, Sharmila Hiranand and Sofia Elizalde

WINE connoisseur Andy Jacinto flanked by guests Oye Fores and Juan Miguel Ongsiako

This bizarre season of bazaars

From page 11

Even if I am a total Swatch girl and cannot wait for Gift Gate temptress **Virgie Ramos** to show me the latest funky creations of Swatch, Cartier has always been a favorite for serious evening wear. For instance, if I had been invited to the state dinner at Malacañang, I might have worn my Cartier. Unfortunately, I am not of the high political circles that merit Malacañang's attention. Perhaps if my column were moved to the front page...

At any rate, I can always imagine what I would have worn to the state dinner, à la Cinderella before the good fairy appeared. I would have used the newest Cartier style, Declaration, lovingly draped on my extended wrist, while wearing a Philippine-flag red, **Dennis Lustico**-designed *terno* with matching multicolored ostrich feathers. I might even have attracted President **George W. Bush** to look my way, delaying him from catching his Air Force One flight to Bangkok.

CARTIER guests Chatty Roxas, Cinthy Recto and Lucille Carlos-Locsin

SHAREEN Wong, Crème de la Mer executive

Potent cream

But Bush is gone now, so perhaps it's time for me to return to the topic as well. Another intimate tea party was the launch of Crème de la Mer into the retail market. The Makati Shangri-La's Presidential Suite was transformed into a chic, high tea party for twenty-plus, fortysomething, well-heeled women, all of whom were trying the potent face cream for the first time.

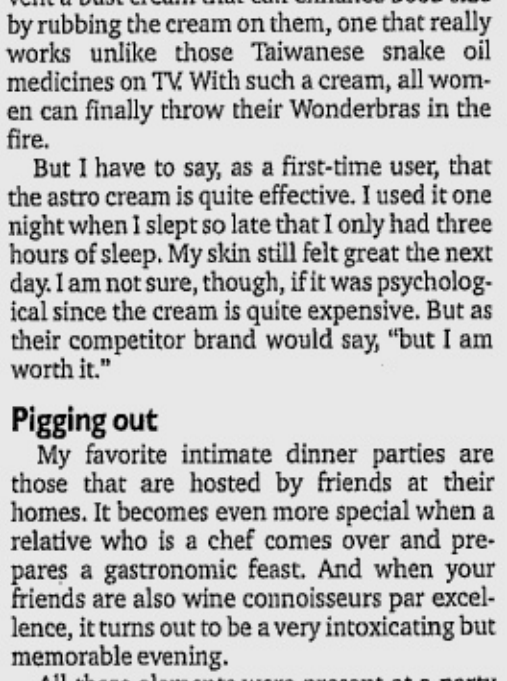
The product was developed by an astronaut who treated himself for his burns with his own formulated cream. So the theory is that if a product can repair burned flesh, all the more can it enhance unblemished skin. Now, if only this same astronaut can also invent a bust cream that can enhance boob size by rubbing the cream on them, one that really works unlike those Taiwanese snake oil medicines on TV. With such a cream, all women can finally throw their Wonderbras in the fire.

But I have to say, as a first-time user, that the astro cream is quite effective. I used it one night when I slept so late that I only had three hours of sleep. My skin still felt great the next day. I am not sure, though, if it was psychological since the cream is quite expensive. But as their competitor brand would say, "but I am worth it."

Pigging out

My favorite intimate dinner parties are those that are hosted by friends at their homes. It becomes even more special when a relative who is a chef comes over and prepares a gastronomic feast. And when your friends are also wine connoisseurs par excellence, it turns out to be a very intoxicating but memorable evening.

All these elements were present at a party hosted by **Andy** and **Kitty Jacinto** in their Rockwell flat. Andy's nephew, chef **Jose Antonio Miguel**, flew in from Sydney, Australia,


MY HOME transformed into a Cartier showroom for a day

THE CIRKULO GANG. Malu Gamboa, J and Maja Gamboa

CHAMPAGNE toasts from Kitty Jacinto, Malou Fores and Marisa Chan

and prepared an exceptional, five—or was it six?—course meal. Sorry, but I lost count because my alcohol content was way past the driving level.

For this dinner, Chef Anton brought in the steaks, the foie gras, the oysters and all his cooking ingredients from Down Under. His journey through the culinary profession spans 12 years. He has undergone intensive training in London for a number of Michelin Star Restaurants. In Sydney, he has worked through the ranks and is now a senior sous chef in several of the city's finest restaurants. Here is a young chef to watch out for.

The food was so rich and the portions were huge, Aussie outback size, so much so that everyone couldn't move after dinner. Even the dessert was rich, laced with truffle oil. Good thing there was the fat melt-away pill Xenical to prevent the fat from being absorbed by our bodies.

Andy must have been so tipsy, he opened a bottle from his special wine cabinet which was meant for their 20th anniversary. I was just so glad I sat in between the couple to toast them both for a totally wonderful dinner. There are so many reasons to hold parties, but then, you don't also need one. As it says in the ad, "Just do it."

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

CENTER OF ASIAN CULINARY STUDIES
CENTER FOR ASIAN CULINARY STUDIES
CAFÉ YSABEL RESTAURANT
455 P. Guevarra Street, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 725-5089 / 726-9326

www.cafeysabel.com
Email: cafeysabel@mydestiny.net

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

Nov. 04, Tues. – HOLIDAY TURKEY TREAT. Impress your friends with a complete Turkey dinner for the coming Holiday season. Recipes include 4 kinds of Stuffing, Giblet Gravy, Corn Bread, Split Pea Soup, Old Fashioned Fruit Salad and Glazed Sweet Potatoes with Campfire Crust. P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 05, Wed. – SPANISH CHRISTMAS DISHES. Spanish Christmas meals from Ms. Betina Legarda that you can serve to your family and friends, the recipes are White Cheese Salad, Fish Pie, Seafood Pilaff with White Wine, Quail with Grapes, Fancy Meat with Castañas and Pears and Profiteroles with Butterscotch Sauce for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Nov. 06, Thurs. – HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 1. Chef Gino will teach bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas give-aways. Recipes include Puttanesca, Salsa, Nacho Cheese Dip, Cilantro Pesto, Classic Pesto, Salad Dressing, Toblerone Fondue and many more. Gift wrapping ideas included for P1,200.00 including ingredients from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 07 & 08, Fri and Sat. – THE COFFEE CLASS 1 & 2 Learn from Chef Gene Gonzalez, the tastemaster of coffee and consultant designer to several coffee house systems teach you (hands-on) the basic of making proper and profitable cups of Americano, Espresso, Cappuccino, Lattés, etc. The class will also touch on the basics of blending, machine and costing on the first day. Day 2 will cover exciting and high profit cold coffee concoctions with creative topping and syrups such as Mocha Madness, Café Seville, Café Tortoni, Coffee Jelly etc. The course is open to both restaurant operators and hobbyists. Recipes include all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 for Ph 3,000.00 for the 2 days.

Nov. 09, Sun. – PAELLAS N' RISOTTOS 2. Paella de Mariscos, Paella Primavera, Paella de Fideos, Seafood Jambalaya and Risotto alla Milanese are the recipes that Chef Gene will share with us. For P880.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 – 12:00 noon.

November 10, Mon. – THAI FAVORITES 1. Bangkok Chef Chariya Thaikupt will teach her favorite Thai dishes like Tom Yam, Paad Thai, Chicken Pandan, Chicken Green Curry and Tako in Pandan leaves. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 11, Tues. – NOCHE BUENA FEAST. Chef Gino will teach you tasty and delicious holiday dishes served during Noche Buena and other special occasions. Recipes include Lengua con Cetas, Roast Rib-eye with Onion Gravy, Spanish Style Roast Turkey, Cannelloni and Prawns Thermidor for P1,500.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

Nov. 12, Wed. – THAI FAVORITES 2. The recipes from Thai Chef Chariya Thaikupt, Tom Kha Talay, Bagoong Rice, Roasted Duck Curry, Crispy Catfish with Green Mango Salad, Thai Halo-halo at P1,200.00 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients.

Nov. 15, Sat. – SPECIAL BARS. Learn a new set of delectable bar recipes from Chef Adoree Chong-Uy which are perfect for a home-based business. Recipes include Chocolate Raspberry bars, Date and Apple Squares, Sour Cream Streusel Bars, Sasame Squares, Almond Bars and Lemon Squares for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 17 – 20, Mon. – Thurs. – CAKE DECORATING SKILLS I – A 4-days hands-on basic cake decorating skills under Pastry Chef Ana Baluyot which includes Basic Tool Kit, Apron and Everyday Lunch- for P14,000.00 from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. Module covers 3 Kinds of Icing Design Making such as Borders, Ribbon and Letters. Students will decorate their occasion cake and simple pastry shop cake. This program is a prerequisite to Cake Decorating Skills II and III in which upon completion certifies the student in Professional Cake Decoration. For inquiries call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and ask for Marilyn or Glady.

Nov. 22, Sat. – ULTIMATE SPANISH FOOD FOR FESTIVITIES. Another set of new recipes from Ms. Betina Legarda that can be cook this holiday season. The recipes are Fresh Tomato Soup with Basil, Fresh Scallops in Sun-dried Tomato Sauce, Salmon in Chive Sauce, Delicious Chicken with Avocado, Beef Bundles in Red Wine sauce and Creamy Chocolate Flan for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

Nov. 23, Sun. – SIMPLE JAPANESE MEAL 1. Chef Gene will teach us easy to prepare Japanese meal with recipes like Wakame Soup, Ebi Tempura, Uji Kintoki, Chahan Mushi, and Chicken Katsu. Recipes include all ingredients for P880.00 from 9:00 – 12:00 noon.

Nov. 24, Mon. – SIMPLE PATE, CONFIT AND TERRINES. Chef's Terrine, Chicken Liver Pate with Pistachio Nuts, Duck Confit, Pork Rillettes, Salmon Terrine, Onion Jam and Ginger Confit are recipes from Chef Gene that you can make and give as present for the coming holidays. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 25, Tues. – SUMPTUOUS SALMON Let Chef Gino teach you 6 unique and tasty ways to cook Salmon that can be used in catering or for entertaining. Recipes include Salmon Cannelloni, Salmon Croquettes with Dill-Mustard Sauce, Herb Crusted Salmon Fillet with Caper Buerre Blanc, Spinach Salmon Lasagna with Saffron Gratin, Salmon Mousse with Fish Roe in Horseradish Sauce and Poached Salmon Paupiette with Lemon-Basil Whisk Butter Sauce for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 27, Thurs.– SUMPTUOUS SALMON 2. Let Chef Gino teach you 6 unique and tasty ways to cooking Salmon that can be used in catering or for simple entertaining. Recipes include Salmon Head Red Curry with Coconut Milk, Salmon Teriyaki with Wasabi Mayonnaise, Salmon Meuniere with Kani Sarada Gratin, Salmon Cheesecake, Coulibiac of Salmon, Smoked Salmon with Shrimp Dumpling for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 29, Sat. – GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES 1. Seafood in Saffron Crème & Proscuitto, Squid Ink, Vegetarian White Cheese and Herbs, Sicilian Tuna Roe and many more are the recipes that Chef Gene will teach us. P880.00 including ingredients from 9:00 – 12:00 noon

Nov. 30, Sun. – PRAWNS TO PLEASE. Chef Gene will teach us different styles of cooking prawns that you will enjoy. Recipes include Prawns Furai, Prawns Benihana, Sizzling Crystal Prawns in Chinese Bagoong, Prawns in Orange Sauce, Prawns in Tamarind Sauce (Crustacean Style) and Prawns in Caramelized Walnuts for P880.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 – 12:00 noon.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone — NOVEMBER NEWS

ACROSS
1 Clout a cad
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131 Chip's chum

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11 Feels ill
12 Actor Arnaz
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15 Merit
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43 Fit for farming
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47 Yesterday's your
52 Superhero's garb
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57 Della of "Touched by an Angel"
59 Kitchen appliance
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63 Genesis redhead
64 "The A-Team" star
65 Sneak a peek
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70 He's Devine
71 '60s fad
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80 Maui memento
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85 Extinct bird
88 Driller's deg.
89 Mineral spring
90 "To be sure!" in Toulouse
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94 Fortified wine
95 Threat words
96 Oscilloscope image
97 Funky George
98 "Lucia di Lammermoor" costume
99 Certain autos
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116 Monsieur Montand
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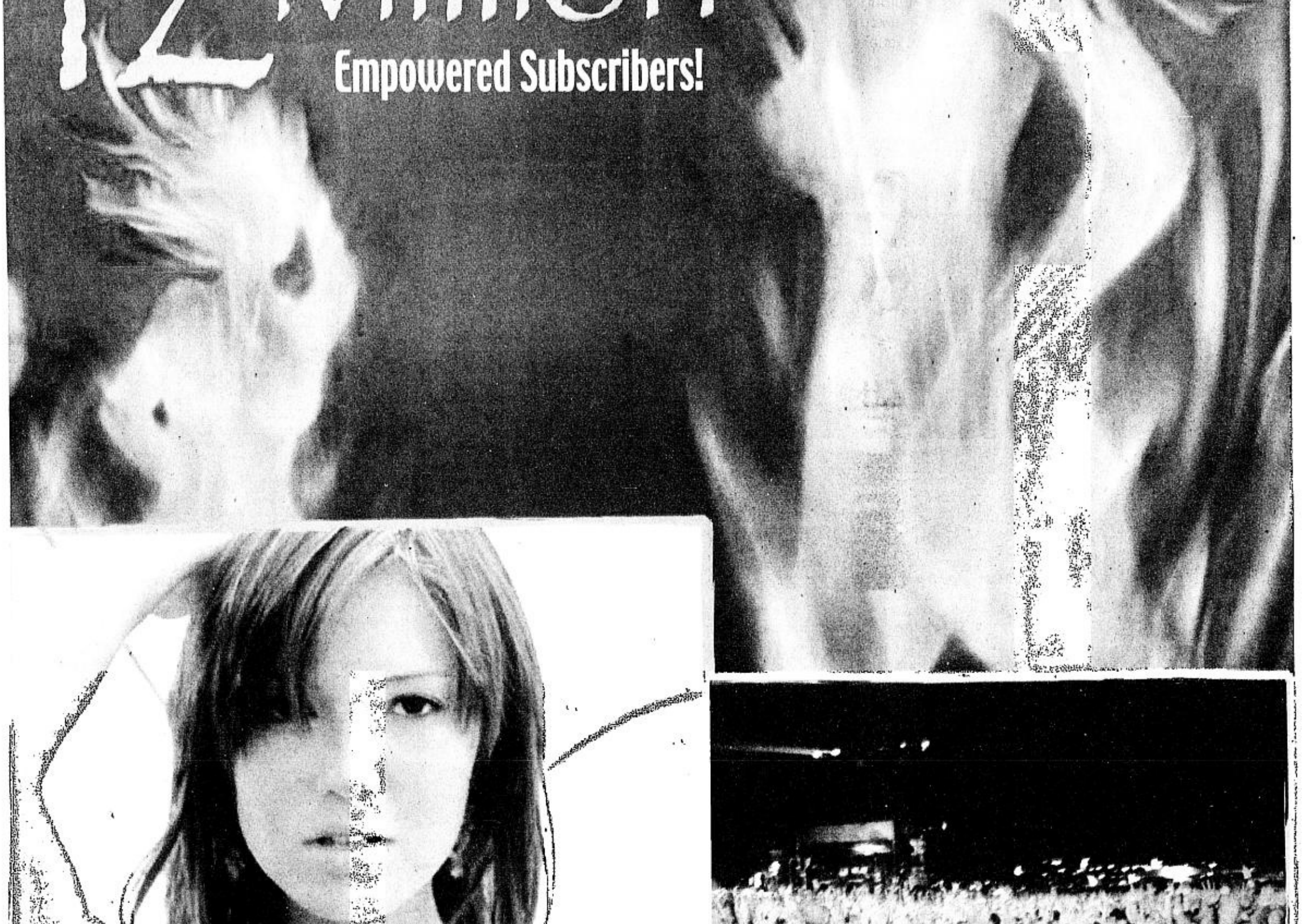
118 Kite part
119 Ferrara first family
120 Attila, to his wife?

answer on page D3

SMART Sizzles with 12 Million

Empowered Subscribers!



Hot, Rare and Live!
Mandy Moore LIVE in Manila!
The temperature begins to rise on Novemver 21 at The Fort Grounds as SMART gives you the chance to see International pop sensation MANDY MOORE For more info, just text MUSIC to 209, gates open at 4:00pm

We hit it fast, and with 12 million-strong subscribers, we did so in spectacular fashion. After just a decade of service, empowering Filipinos all over the country and around the world, SMART joyously launched 11 days of partying and fun thru SMART Ce11ebration just last August. And now, a mere month or so hence, SMART S12zles with an unprecedented 12 million subscribers on the SMART Network!

By the end of 2002, SMART already had 8 million subscribers, and it's amazing to think that in just 10 months, 4 million more have joined the country's wireless leader. With over 3,400 cellsites nationwide (and still growing) SMART champions innovations and achievements that keep Filipinos ready for more. And to thank the 12 million strong that have lived and breathed the SMART life, we're bringing you more fantastic spectacles even as the year draws to a close. We couldn't have done it without you. So let the festivities ensue...let's party!

Mandy in concert!

International pop superstar Mandy Moore will be performing on November 21, 8p.m. at The Fort Grounds at the MTV Music Summit for AIDS and SMART subscribers are in for some freebies for this unique concert!

Pops hits Davao!

Davao will see the Concert Queen in all her glory on November 15 for The Venue Anniversary Blow Out Party featuring Pops Fernandez! From November 5-14, SIM Swap to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 at the SMART Wireless Center in Davao to get free tickets!

Early Christmas treats!

On December 4, 5, and 6, the Pamaskong Aliwan-Fiesta ng mga Parol will be bringing in some yuletide cheer to Metro Manila just as the fresher and cooler winds sweep by! People will be treated to bazaars, live concerts, and fireworks shows at the Star City, CCP Complex, Manila.

True Faith in Tarlac!

Power pop sensations True Faith will hold a major concert on November 29 at the IWSP Gym, San Miguel, Tarlac to keep SMART sizzling all the way to the end of 2003! SIM Swap to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 between November 10-25 at the SMART Wireless Center in Tarlac and get a free ticket.

A leader like SMART looks ever forward, defining tomorrows. As the maverick innovator it has become known to be, SMART keeps bringing the latest breakthroughs in technology to the Filipino market. At SMART, your celfone and mobile experience becomes even more complete. Innovations like the Windows-powered SMART Amazing Phone, the mobile banking offered through SMART Money, the power-packed SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2, and the over-the-air reloading courtesy of SMART Load have become a part of our everyday lives.

Thank you for your trust, confidence and your SMART choice in realizing the next mobile revolution. We continue with our focus and commitment in providing quality service to suit the needs of Filipinos, and with the parties we give you in the days ahead, doing it all with sizzle and style.

SMART Sizzles

JOB Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2003
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This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY **INQUIRER**
published every Sunday and distributed nationwide
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT
on Page J13

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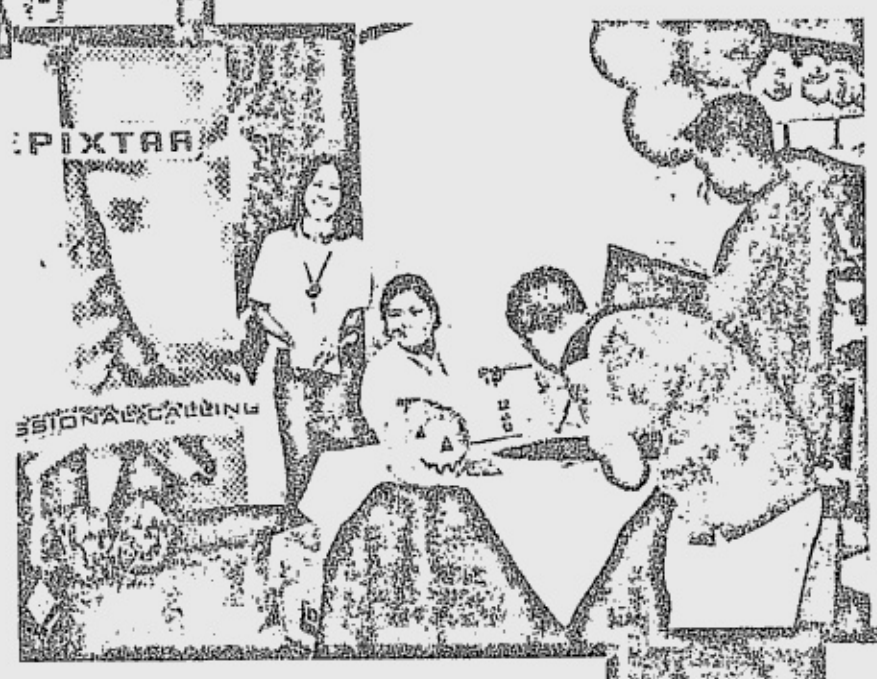
a professional calling.....

We want YOU!!!



We are looking for :

Sales Executives
Team Leaders
IT Help Desk
Account Executives
Trainers
Cashier
HR Manager
HR/Recruitment Officer
Receptionist
Technical Support Supervisor
Systems Support Engineers
Network Support Engineers

Please come over to our Career Fair from November 03 to 07, 2003 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM at the 8th floor Tower 2 Insular Life Corporate Center Commerce corner Corporate Ave ,Flinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Please bring an updated copy of your resume or mail to the above address. You may also apply on-line: www.epixtar.com

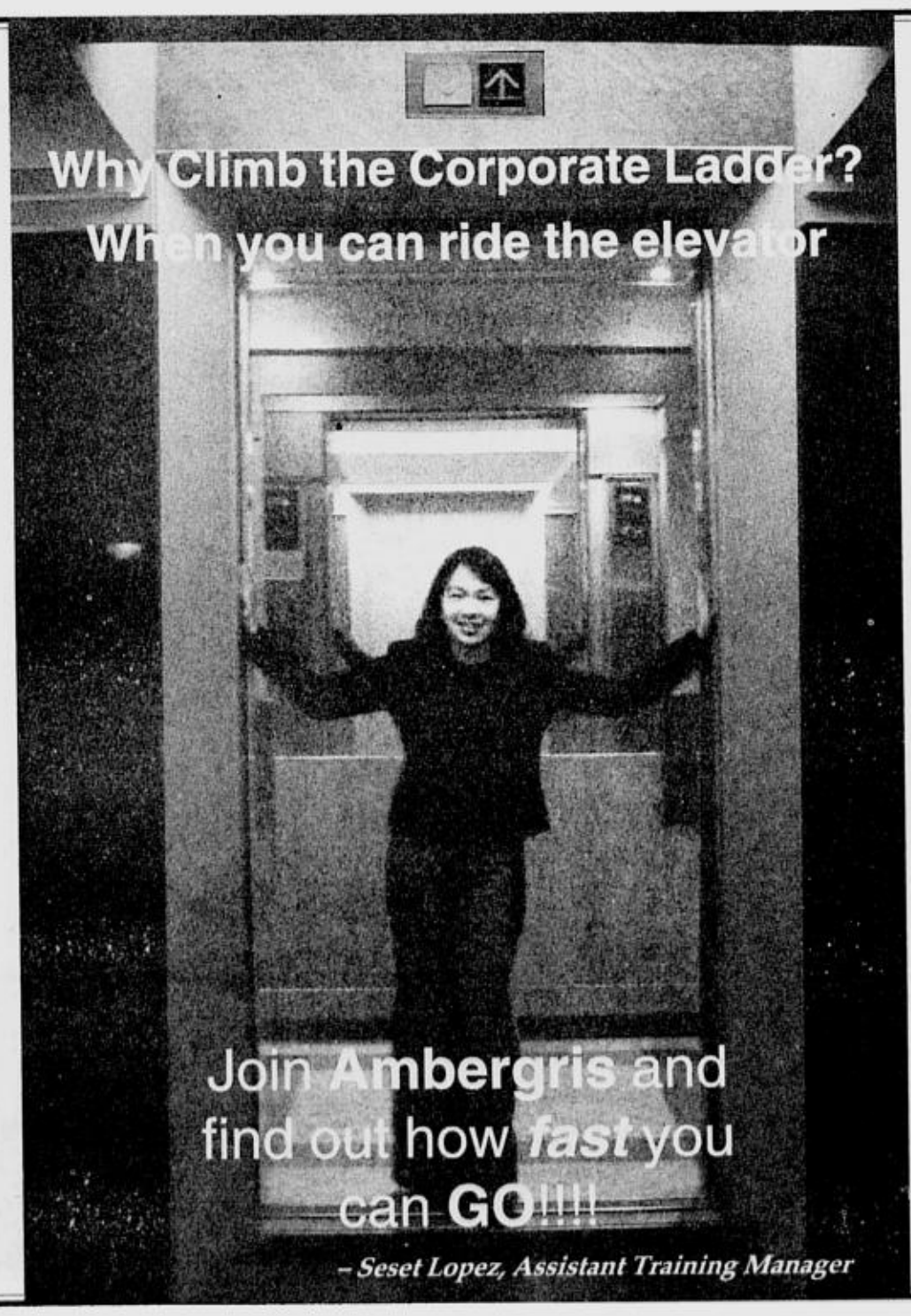
We look forward to meeting you!!

---

ambergris solutions

31/F Discovery Center 25 ADB Ave.,
Ortigas Center Pasig City 1600
JOBS HOTLINE: 638.9440 loc.1222
EMAIL: Recruitment@ambergrissolutions.com
www.ambergrissolutions.com

100 Inbound Sales Associates
350 Customer Interaction Associates
Team Captains
Organizational Development Manager
Operations Manager
Assistant Operations Manager / Shift Manager
Marketing Relations Officer
HR Assistants
Training Managers
Trainers
IT Manager
Network Administrator
IT Help Desk
Company Nurse



Ambergris Solutions provides quality customer care services for American companies in the utilities, IT and telecommunications industries through local infrastructure. Our high-class facilities, training and operations programs and our highly trained professionals, make us the most admired, fastest growing Philippine-based company in the call center industry.

Here's why Ambergris is good for you:

We offer bond-free employment, comprehensive training and attractive incentives. We guarantee rapid career growth in a young, dynamic environment with premium perks and a lot of fun events.

Here's How to Join

Visit us at our main office in Discovery Center, Ortigas from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. Mondays-Fridays and be immediately interviewed. Previous applicants need not apply.

SPLASH CORPORATION

"Bagong Pilipino, Maka-Pilipino."
Kayang tumapat sa buong mundo.

Invites competitive and dynamic candidates to the country's leading manufacturer of World Class Filipino-Initiated Health, Beauty, and Personal Care Products

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN AND CEO
(Code: EA)

CAREER OBJECTIVE:
This Senior Management position provides technical and professional support to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer by overseeing and carrying out the operational and administrative functions of the Office, thus, giving the Chairman/CEO the time and space to focus on strategic issues and concerns.

SPECIFICATIONS:
- Master's degree in Business Management/Administration
- At least 5 years in similar capacity (an EA to a CEO, COO, or senior executive officers such as EVP or SVP) preferably in a multinational or Philippine top 300 corporation
- A generalist who can understand and talk the language of finance marketing, and operations
- Not more than 40 years old
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES: Adaptability, Analytical Thinking, Business sense, Planning, Organizing, and Strategic Orientation.

The candidates must be goal and result oriented and must be able to multi-task. He/She must be diligent, efficient, and independent. He/she must possess a pleasant disposition and positive attitude. He/She must be able to adapt to a corporate culture that honors values, teamwork, excellence, quality and productivity.

Applicants are required to submit or e-mail their application letter, comprehensive resumé with recent photo.

A highly competitive compensation package awaits successful candidates!

Kindly indicate **JOB CODE** in the first page of your resumé.

CORPORATE HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
3/F HBC Corporate Centre
548 Mindanao Avenue cor. Quirino Highway, Quezon City
Mail to: Mr. Mike Mapua (Human Resources Officer)
E-mail: mbmapua@splashcorp.com
Website: www.splash.com.ph
Your application will be held in strictest confidence.
We will respond to qualified applicants only.

Link2Support

BUILD YOUR CAREER, GROW WITH US

Link2Support Inc., is a world class technical contact center which is operational 24/7. It was originally established to render phone, email and chat support to clients of LINKSYS*, a division of* CISCO SYSTEMS.

Now, Link2Support also offers web and multimedia development and system integration as well. Link2Support has a workforce of over 800 Product Support Representatives, composed mainly of licensed Engineers and degree holders of IT -related courses who are fluent in conversational English, highly skilled and knowledgeable with the latest trends in computer networking.

Our vibrant environment and state-of-the-art facilities make us an ideal partner in jumpstarting your career in the field of new-age information technology.

Join us and experience the opportunity to work in a dynamic environment highlighted with opportunities for continuous certified in-house and overseas technical and career development trainings.

We are in search of vibrant and highly-motivated individuals who have excellent English communication skills and who are willing to work in shifting schedules to fill up the following positions in our local and US sites:

Philippine Office requirements

PRODUCT SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES — *Responsible for providing excellent technical support and customer service to clients all over the world.*
- College graduates of any IT-related course, preferably ECE and CoE
- Familiar with computer networking concepts and PC Troubleshooting
- Call center experience will be an advantage

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT — *Responsible for analyzing financial reports and information pertaining to the company's finances*
- College graduate of BS Accountancy
- CPA License is required
- With at least 5 years related work experience in a supervisory level and adept with Taxation Laws

US Office requirements

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER — *Responsible for marketing the company's various business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions to corporate clients and manage accounts by liaising between the clients and the contact center's headquarters.*
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Marketing or any IT-related field.
- Must at least have 5-10 years of work experience in Corporate Sales or a related field, 3 years of which in a managerial capacity
- With a proven track record of achievement in corporate sales and account management, preferably from the IT, Telecommunications or Call Center industries
- Must possess the necessary skills required for solution selling: excellent communication (verbal and written), presentation and coordination skills

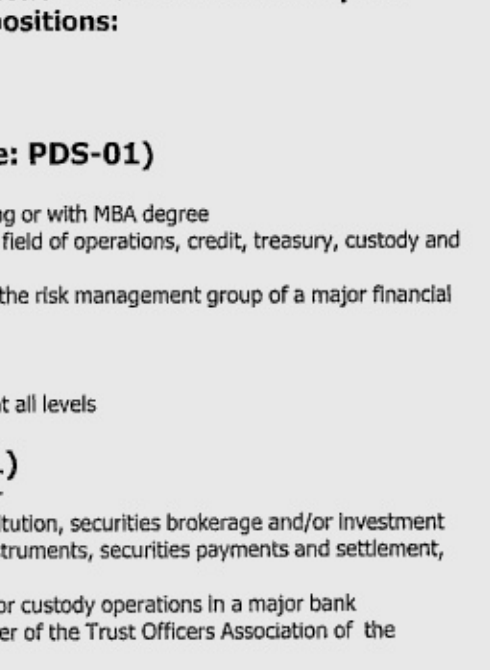
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE — *The candidate shall be responsible for assisting the Sales Manager in marketing the company's various solutions to corporate clients by implementing sales and promotional programs.*
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Marketing or any IT-related field
- With at least 2-4 years of work experience in Corporate Sales or any related field
- Must have background with sales and account management
- Must possess the necessary skills required for solution selling: excellent communication (verbal and written), presentation and coordination

For an immediate interview for Product Support Representative applications, visit us from Monday to Friday 9 am-6 pm at:

5th Floor TechnoPlaza One Bdlg., Orchard Road, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City

Applicants for other positions may send their resume to recruitment@link2support.com, indicating position applied for as the subject of the message.

You may also visit our website at www.link2support.com or call us at 423-8700



FEP PRINTING CORPORATION

(Official printer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Libre, Asian Wall Street Journal, Cebu Daily News, Bandera, Tumbok)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

PRE-PRESS TECHNICIAN
- Male/Female
- Engineering graduates
- Previous experience preferred but not necessary
- Familiarity with Mac and PC and major Software applications (Adobe, Corel and Macromedia)
- Background in print production preferred

BINDERY
- Mechanical/EE/ECE graduate
- Male/Female
- Willing to work in industrial environment

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ANALYST
- Male/Female
- Chemical/Industrial/Computer Engineer graduates
- Work experience in a manufacturing set up is preferred
- Willing to travel from time to time to Davao and Cebu plants
- Computer proficient in office applications (Word, Powerpoint, Excel)
- Should be able to relate and interact with other employees in the line

HRD SUPERVISOR
- Psychology graduate preferably with Masteral degree
- At least 3-5 years experience as an HRD Supervisor
- With experience in recruitment and counseling
- Knowledgeable in Labor Laws
- Computer literate

Applicants for all position must be willing to be assigned in Mamplasan, Laguna (shuttle service available). Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit a comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 picture and a photocopy of Transcript of Records.

FEP Printing Corporation
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or Email: aoasan@fep.ph

PDS Group

PHILIPPINE DEALING SYSTEM HOLDINGS CORP.

the holding company, which shall provide the country's first electronic platform for trading, clearing, settlement and depository, registry and custody of fixed income securities and its derivatives is in need of top-caliber and highly motivated individuals to fill up the following positions:

RISK MANAGEMENT HEAD (Code: PDS-01)
- Reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer
- Preferably graduate in Mathematics/Engineering or with MBA degree
- Deep understanding of banking services in the field of operations, credit, treasury, custody and trust
- At least five (5) years experience in managing the risk management group of a major financial institution
- Presently occupying a senior position
- Excellent in people and process management
- Excellent in analytical and interpersonal skills at all levels

CUSTODY HEAD (Code: PDTC-01)
- Reports directly to the Chief Operations Officer
- At least ten (10) years in a major financial institution, securities brokerage and/or investment house with deep understanding of financial instruments, securities payments and settlement, custodial and trusteeship functions
- At least five (5) years experience in trust and/or custody operations in a major bank
- Preferably MBA degree and certified trust officer of the Trust Officers Association of the Philippines (TOAP)
- Presently occupying a senior position

RESEARCH HEAD (Code: PDEX-01)
- Reports directly to the Chief Operations Officer
- At least ten (10) years experience in investments and fixed-income research
- Comprehensive knowledge of macro-economics on both country and regional level
- Experience in trading or selling of fixed income instruments is an advantage
- Preferably a Chartered Financial Analyst or any other similar international certification

COMPLIANCE AND SURVEILLANCE HEAD (Code: PDEX-02)
- Reports directly to the Chief Operations Officer
- Extensive experience in compliance of an entity dealing with investment and fixed-income instruments
- Comprehensive knowledge of Securities Laws and other related regulations
- Working knowledge of the operations of an entity dealing in fixed-income securities
- Experience in trading or selling of fixed-income instruments is an advantage
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or a legal degree holder
- Presently occupying a senior position

PDS offers industrially competitive remuneration package, professional training and excellent opportunities for career enhancement. If you are qualified, please forward the following documents: Curriculum Vitae, transcript of records, your contact telephone number, 2 recent passport size photos and photocopies of your credentials to:

The Human Resource Department
PHILIPPINE DEALING SYSTEM HOLDINGS CORP.
G/F Makati Stock Exchange Building
6767 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

The leading company in a wood based industry is in need of the following personnel:

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
The candidate will be trained to handle the production department of a medium-sized company.
- ✔ Industrial Engineering graduate
- ✔ Currently occupying or has held a supervisory position in a professionally-run manufacturing company.
- ✔ Male, 25-30 years old
- ✔ Must be aggressive, self-motivated, ambitious, with leadership
- ✔ Willing to be based in Cabuyao, Laguna

ACCOUNTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
- ✔ CPA or at least 5 years experience in accounting and office administration
- ✔ Female, 25-30 years old
- ✔ Self-starter, well-organized

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- ✔ Accounting graduate with at least 1 year experience
- ✔ Female, single, not more than 25 yrs. old
- ✔ Computer literate

PURCHASING CLERKS
- ✔ Graduate of any Management course with at least one year experience in general purchasing dept.
- ✔ Male, not more than 28 years old
- ✔ Driving knowledge an advantage

Applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive bio-data, transcript of records, 2x2 pictures at:

TRANS-ASIA WOOD, Incorporated
No. 1 North Sikap, Plainview, Mandaluyong City
532-6274 / 76 / 77 (Mabel); e-mail at: info@tawi.com.ph

SIBS Publishing House, Inc.

is in search of candidates to fill in the position of:

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Job Description
- Responsible for coordinating seminars, book exhibits, book launchings, and other corporate events.

Qualifications
- Female, 22-27 years old, single
- College graduate from reputable university with AB Masscom or Communication/Liberal Arts degree
- Excellent communication skills both oral and written
- Good interpersonal or people / PR Skills
- Adaptable and can work under pressure and multiple tasks
- Must be willing to travel and render overtime work
- Possess good leadership qualities
- Two-three years in experience in promotions and marketing *(an advantage)*

Please send or e-mail your comprehensive resumé with recent photo and transcript of records to:

Personnel Department
c/o Irish Tagapia
SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
B/F Globe Telecom Plaza II
Pioneer Highlands,
Pioneer corner Madison Streets
1552 Mandaluyong City
E-mail: sibsbook@info.com.ph

CPA
- Urgent/Female/Single/24-28 years old
- Highly-motivated and goal-oriented
- Bring Resumé and transcript with PRC

Call **Nena** at **7274403 / 7269119**

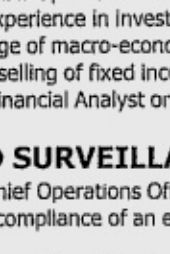
ACCOUNTANT
- *Female, single, not more than 30 yrs of age*
- *Graduate of B.S. Accounting; Computer Literate*
- *Experience is an advantage but not required*

Applicants must have the knowledge of Chinese Languages and may send thru Phil. Daily Inquirer, Code-QC-LG 2003, St. Anthony Bldg., 891 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, QC

FAMILY CARE HOSPITAL INC.
Macaria Avenue, Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna
Is in need of:

Chief Nurse with MA Degree
Office Clerk, 4 year course, graduate of a 4-year course, with accounting background
Medical Technologist

Send application to:
DR. DACKY FERNANDEZ
Hospital Administrator



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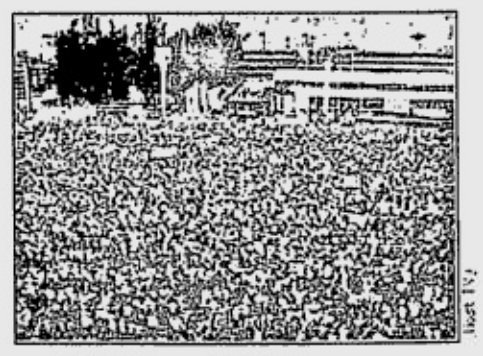
The Karaoke Machine

Roberto del Rosario, a Filipino, invented the **first** karaoke machine.



Philippine Papal Crowd

The Philippines holds the world record for the **largest** crowd before the Pope.

Manny Pacquiao

"The Destroyer" is the IBF's Junior Featherweight Champ. The **best** in the world.

The First. The Largest. The Best in the World.

In the Philippine call center industry, only one name can fit the bill:

telecare international

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATES
SALES REPRESENTATIVES
TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
NETWORK ENGINEER
DATA NETWORK SPECIALIST
APPLICATION DEVELOPERS
TEAM LEADERS

TRAINING OFFICERS
INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGER / OFFICER
HR COMPENSATION & BENEFITS MANAGER
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
RECRUITING MANAGER
RECRUITING OFFICERS /SPECIALISTS
TELECOM SPECIALIST

SEND YOUR RESUME, CALL US, OR VISIT US FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW AT
20F CITIBANK SQUARE, EASTWOOD CITY CYBERPARK, LIBIS QC
hotline 9165680 * fax 9005906 * recruiting@etelecare.com
OR DROP OFF YOUR RESUME AT THE 14F PBCOM TOWER,
VA RUFINO COR AYALA AVE, MAKATI CITY

eTelecare will be visiting Cebu City! See us at the Rosal Ed Aldefo Function Room, Marriott Hotel on November 7 & 8, 10 am to 5 pm.

Announcing the NIIT Global Technology Scholarships on Oracle, Java and CompTIA A+ & N+ Technologies.

NIIT GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS 2003

Whether you are looking for a career in IT or just seeing IT as an essential tool in your career, here's an opportunity of lifetime. Presenting the NIIT Global Technology Scholarships leading to Internationally recognized certifications.

Highlights of the Scholarships:

The NIIT Global Technology scholarships are open to all, and will be awarded to eligible examination and an interview. Based on performance, meritorious candidates will be entitled to scholarships ranging from 15% to 100% on total course fees. These scholarships are brought to you by NIIT, the global IT education and training leader. NIIT has, over the last 22 years, armed students, across the world with some of the most relevant and advanced computer skills known to man.

Learning with NIIT means that you get a distinct advantage to become the preferred choice of employers, anywhere in the world.

IMPORTANT DATES
Qualifying Test: Nov. 6, 2003.
Last date of applications: Nov. 5, 2003
Application kits are available at all NIIT locations.

HURRY, APPLY NOW OR MISS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME!

NIIT
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GLOBAL LEADER IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

THE NIIT EDGE

Ranked among the top 15 IT educators globally. Operations in 44 countries including Australia, UK, France, Germany & Japan. Preferred partner of IBM, Oracle, Microsoft, Computer Associates & Citrix. Microsoft's Best Training Partner for 4 consecutive years. Graduates work in companies such as Hewlett Packard Citibank, American Express, IBM

Visit NIIT now! Taft: Mezzanine Level, Joshua Center, 428 Taft Ave (fronting PGH) Tel: 405-0018 Alabang: 2/F Doña Marta Bldg., Alabang Zapote Road (fronting Isuzu) Tel: 775-7001 Makati: L/GF Salustiana Ty Bldg., Paseo de Roxas cor Perea St. Tel: 8303000 Ortigas: G/F Greenrich Mansion, Pearl Drive cor Lourdes St., Ortigas Center Tel: 689-1189.

The search is on as

STERLING GROUP OF COMPANIES

Open its doors to highly-competent, top caliber and results oriented leaders to fill in the following positions:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS
M/F, at least 23 yrs. old. Grad of any course. Masteral degree is an advantage. W/ at least 2 yrs. experience in bus. dev't (real estate or franchising) gained in a fastfood or retail establishment. Conducts market feasibility studies. Experience negotiator. Proficient in windows-based applic. Skilled driver. Willing to travel.

DESIGNERS
M/F, Pref. single. grad. of BS Architecture or Interior Design. VG in AutoCADD Rel. 14. Can work long hours & flexible.

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS
Male, 22-28 yrs. old. Mech./Elect. Tech. or any related trade / vocational course grad. At least 2 yrs. exposure in a manufacturing firm, esp. in RAC maintenance & facilitation. Can work long hours.

CATEGORY MANAGERS / CATEGORY SUPERVISORS
M/F, 25-35 yrs. old. Pref. grad. of I.E. Mktg. or any bus.-related course. W/ at least 1-3 yrs. of actual exp. in trade or consumer mktg. Exp. in garments or school & office supplies operations is a plus factor. Proficient in planning & analysis. Familiar w/ project & product mgt. W/ good interpersonal & leadership skills. Exposure in category or supply chain mgt. is an advantage.

STORE MANAGERS
M/F, not more than 35 yrs. old. Coll. grad. w/ at least 3 yrs. Managerial/supervisory exp. in a retail, mfg., fast food or any service-oriented bus. Must have exp. in sales, inv. ctrl., & manpower mgt. Possesses strong leadership skills. Accepts rotating shifts. Residents of Manila, Lucena, Lipa, Laguna, Laoag, Tuguegarao, La Union, Olongapo & Isabela are preferred.

STORE SUPERVISORS FOR COMPUTER SVCS. SHOPS
M/F, 23-28 yrs. old. A grad. of any 4 yrs. computer course. W/ intensive knowledge in networking & computer hardwares/ softwares. Highly analytical, w/ good comm. & leadership skills. Pref. w/ background in handling computer rentals & will be assigned in Metro Manila & Northern / Southern Luzon areas.

WE ALSO NEED THE FOLLOWING:

- HRD Supervisors & Staffs
- Audit Supervisors & Audit Staffs
- Marketing Staffs & Assistants
- Warehouse Supervisors
- Mechanical Engineers
- Import Merchandisers
- Department Secretaries
- Category Assistants
- Management Trainees
- Administrative Staffs
- Computer Assistants
- Computer Technicians
- Book Illustrators
- Graphic Artist
- Security Officers
- Inventory Controllers
- Data Encoders
- Cashiers, Sales Assoc. Stockmen

Interested applicants may apply personally or mail resumé w/ recent photo to:

THE CORPORATE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.
#2302 Sterling Place Bldg.,
Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City

POSITION APPLIED: _____

vertex SOLUTIONS

Vertex Solutions is an emerging player in the fast-growing field of global customer relationship management services. We are committed to delivering world-class performance for clients here and abroad.

Everything we do at Vertex is guided by our core values of excellence, service, integrity and partnership. These values shape our decisions, drive our actions, and ultimately, enable us to succeed.

We are looking for people who share our values and are committed to work hard in order to learn, grow and succeed. We need:

OPERATIONS MANAGERS (Code OPM)
- Graduate of a four (4) year college course
- With at least five (5) years experience in the call center industry managing operations of outbound and/or inbound campaigns, or experience in a technology, IT, CRM or telecommunications industry managing client projects
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, coaching and people management skills
- Willing to work flexible/shifting hours

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES (Code TSR)
- College graduate of any computer/technology related course
- Excellent communication skills
- Proficient in troubleshooting PC and other peripherals and/or systems applications development and/or networking
- Proficient in Windows OS
- Committed to excellence, teachable and highly-motivated to succeed
- Willing to work flexible/shifting hours

CUSTOMER INTERACTION SPECIALISTS (Code CIS)
- College graduate or college level
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent customer service and/or telemarketing skills
- Committed to excellence, teachable and highly-motivated to succeed
- Computer literate
- Willing to work flexible/shifting hours

TRAINERS (Code TRA)
- Graduate of a four (4) year college course
- With at least one (1) year experience in the training function specifically, conducting courses for outbound and/or inbound programs in a call center or CRM industry, training needs analysis, courseware development and training evaluation
- With at least six (6) months experience as a Call Center Agent or Call Center Team Leader
- Excellent communication, presentation/soft and coaching skills
- Willing to work flexible/shifting hours

QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSISTANTS (Code QAA)
- College graduate of a four (4) year college course
- Excellent communication, analytical and coaching skills
- With at least six (6) months experience in implementing quality assurance programs and standards in a call center
- Proficient in windows applications
- Willing to work flexible/shifting hours

NUTRITIONISTS (Code NUT)
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Nutrition or Nutrition and Dietetics
- Licensed nutritionist
- Excellent communication and customer service skills
- Preferably with an experience or exposure to a customer service function in a call center or similar industry
- Proficient in windows applications
- Willing to work flexible/shifting hours

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR (Code ADM)
- Graduate of a four (4) year college course
- With at least three (3) years supervisory experience in over all office administration function specifically housekeeping, purchasing, security, and janitorial/messengerial services
- Excellent communication, and people management skills
- Proficient in windows applications
- Willing to work on shifting/flexible hours

Applicants may send their resumes by email to vertexrecruitment@vertexcrm.com or you may visit us at the 33rd Floor Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center Pasig City.
Indicate position code in the subject of your email or letter.

jay c. designs

A DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING FIRM IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

ACCOUNTANT
* Preferably can work with QuickBooks

GRAPHIC ARTIST
* College Graduate
* Knows CorelDraw 11 & Photoshop 7
* Female, single, at least 21 yrs. of age

SALES EXECUTIVE
* College Graduate
* Preferably with selling experience
* Can work with minimum supervison
* Female, single, at least 21 yrs. of age

Please submit resume with recent picture to:
JAY C. DESIGNS, INC.
142 Road 3, Bagong Pagasa, Q.C.
Tel. # 927-1776, 929-7479

THE BEST COMPANIES NEED THE BEST PEOPLE.
visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

OMNIPACK INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION is inviting high caliber individuals with related working experience in **Flexible & Rigid Plastic Packaging** to apply for the following positions:

PRODUCTION HEAD
- Male, 35-45 years old
- Mechanical or Industrial Engineering Graduate
- 3 years experience as Head in Converting Process

INK DEPARTMENT HEAD
- Male, 30-40 years old
- Chemical Engineering or BS Chemistry Graduate
- 5 years experience in making Rotogravure Ink

PERSONNEL HEAD
- Female, 28-35 years old
- AB/BS Psychology Behavioral Science Graduate
- 3 years experience as Personnel Head

PRODUCT DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT (RIGID PLASTIC)
- Male, 28-35 years old
- Advertising/Industrial Arts Graduate
- 3 yrs. experience in product design & development of Rigid Plastic

Applicants may apply personally or send resumé and 1x1 picture to:
OMNIPACK INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
Lots 2&3 Deparo Road, Bagumbong, Caloocan City

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Copywriter (2)

Reporting to the Marketing Manager, the copywriter will produce to international standards copy for print and online promotions.

The successful candidate will have excellent written English with professional level business writing skills. Demonstrable direct marketing copywriting experience is a must, preferably acquired in the fields of publishing, professional services or a related business-to-business environment is preferred.

You must have strong attention to detail, with demonstrable accuracy, editing and proofreading ability, plus a proven ability to manage workflow through a small creative team. Must be willing to travel and be assigned in one of our overseas offices in Asia for a significant period.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Assistant Editor

The Assistant Editor will be part of the Global Sources Online/Electronic Components editorial team and handling technical editorial operations, coordinating with electronics design industry, and ensuring optimum content quality for the trade magazine.

The successful candidate must have excellent English language skills with professional-level business writing expertise. You are required to have at least 5 years of editorial experience in technology/trade publications. Experience in reporting is an advantage, as also a background in engineering.

You must have the ability to manage a team, meet deadlines, and have strong attention to detail.

A competitive remuneration package, business travel opportunities and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested individuals should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

Young, dynamic, aspiring with interest in leading-edge technologies...
We invite you to be part of our development team as:

Design Engineer_ASIC

Qualifications:

- Degree holder in Electronics/Computer Engineering.
- Thorough experience with digital, analog and mixed-signal circuit design and analysis.
- Knowledgeable with behavioral RTL design entry in Verilog HDL, VHDL.
- Knowledgeable with SPICE/Pspice modeling and simulation/parametric extraction and HDL synthesis for analog circuits, elements or blocks.
- Thorough and Hands on experience with Altera APEX/Stratix/Cyclone or Xilinx Virtex/Spartan FPGA's for rapid digital prototyping and verification.
- Proficient with EDA synthesis tools, i.e Quartus II, SOPC Builder, ISE, SystemVision, Leonardo/PrecisionRTL, ModelSim, TSPice, W-EDIT, Cadence PSpice.
- Can work with minimum supervision and extended hours.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Male or Female not over 25 years old.

Design Engineer_ASIC Layout

Qualifications:

- Degree holder in Electronics/Computer Engineering.
- Thorough experience with digital, analog and mixed-signal system design.
- Well versed in the use of Tanner EDA tools i.e., L-Edit Pro, LVS, Extract, DRC, NetTran, etc.
- Knowledgeable with TSPICE/Pspice parametric extraction, for layout verification and simulation.
- Can work with minimum supervision and extended hours.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Male or Female not over 25 years old.

Design Engineer_Embedded & PCB

Qualifications:

- Degree holder in Electronics/Computer Engineering.
- Must be knowledgeable in Assembly or C Language programming /debugging / using IDE's and emulators for embedded design applications and circuits.
- Thorough experience with PIC microcontrollers firmware development and programming.
- Well versed in the use of Orcad/Cadence EDA, Schematic capture/editing.
- Must have hands on experience in circuit breadboarding/troubleshooting and prototyping.
- Proficient with PCB design using Orcad/Cadence PCB Layout tools.
- Can work with minimum supervision and extended hours.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Male or Female not over 25 years old.

NOTE:

1. Interested applicants must submit a copy of their latest resumé via e-mail to the address below
2. Applicants must be willing to work, re-locate or travel to Parañaque City.
3. Possible work-related overseas assignment or travel.
4. IMPORTANT: Indicate desired position (as written above) on the subject line for proper routing.

e-mail: hrd@golfelec.com

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Fluent in English
Has an excellent fashion sense
Must have an extensive knowledge of trends
Of good moral character
Naturally friendly

SALES ASSOCIATES

18-22 yrs. old
Single male or female
At least high school graduate
Fluent in English
Has a natural interest for fashion
Of good moral character
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We OFFER:

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Email your resumé (with picture) to:
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Or mail to: CVE, INC.
3807 Paragon Plaza Condominium,
Edsa Cor. Reliance St., Mandaluyong City
Deadline for submission: Nov. 5, 2003

CLOTHING VALUES ENTERPRISES

JOB OPENINGS

ACCOUNTANTS – B.S. Accounting Graduates preferably CPA with experience in any of the following: General Accounting, Preparing of Financial Statements, Financial Analysis, Auditing and Controllership. Computer Literate (EXCEL, SPREADSHEET, LOTUS in WINDOWS ETC). Customer and result-oriented.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE / COUNTER SALES ASSISTANTS – Graduates of any 4-year course. With pleasing personality and excellent verbal and written communication skills. Warm and accommodating, enjoy interacting with different types of people, patient, good listener and can handle all concerns related to customer service. Must be computer literate.

FRONT DESK CLERK / RECEPTIONISTS – Graduates of any 4-year course. Shall operate switchboard/PABX, process incoming calls and place calls as required. Must possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Mature and with pleasant attitude.

CALL CENTER AGENTS – Graduates of medical or IT courses, excellent in verbal and written communication skills, willing to be assigned in shifting schedules, customer-oriented.

ACCOUNT / SALES EXECUTIVES – Graduates of reputable schools, have sales experience, willing to do field works, customer and goal-oriented, with pleasing personality and excellent verbal and written communication skills.

FRESH GRADUATES OF OTHER COURSES ARE ALSO WELCOME TO APPLY!

Due to Urgency, we encourage all applicants to handcarry their resumé, 2x2 pictures, photocopy of diploma or transcript of record to the address below:

SL TEMPS, INC.

(A Division of Searchers and Staffers Corp.)

3 / F, LYDIA BUILDING
#39 POLARIS ST., BEL-AIR, MAKATI CITY
TEL. 896-72-13/896-69-92/896-05-27
FAX: 896-05-01
E-mail Address:
sltemps@info.com.ph
Visit our web site at: www.slsearch.com

A Well-Established Company and Leading Supplier of High Quality Electrical, Industrial and Lighting Products urgently needs

SALES EXEC. / ENGINEERS

Male/Female, not more than 35 years old with pleasing personality; At least 1 year relevant experience in handling industrial, commercial, projects and institutional accounts, and familiar in any of the following products:
*** Industrial Ventilation / Exhaust Fans** (for commercial, industrial and livestock applications; technical knowledge in fans/blowers an advantage.)
*** Industrial/Architectural Lighting * Wires, Cables & Accessories**
*** Motor Controls & Components / Safety Switches**
Excellent communication skills, hardworking, trustworthy, driven, result-oriented and highly committed to meeting sales targets. Ability to speak in Chinese an advantage but not required.

PURCHASING OFFICERS

Female, not more than 30 years old; Acctng/Business/Engineering graduate with at least 1 year experience as purchaser and dealing/negotiating with local suppliers; Excellent oral communication skills in English and Chinese; Hardworking, resourceful, honest, team player with leadership skills.

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Female, not more than 32 years old; Acctg. Graduate, at least 3 years working experience as accounts payable officer/bookkeeper; capable of handling multiple tasks, computer literate and exposed to computerized accounting system; Team player with leadership skills, proactive, flexible and organized; Knowledge of Fukien or Mandarin an advantage but not required.

DELPHI PROGRAMMER

Male/Female, at least 2 years experience in application programming and system analysis; Must be proficient in Delphi 5 (or higher); Interbase and/or MSSQL; Must be proactive, resourceful, and detail-oriented; Able to multi-task and requires minimal supervision; Professional and of upstanding moral character.

GRAPHIC ARTIST/DESIGNERS

Male/Female, at least 3 years experience, able to conceptualize and design marketing materials, print ads, web design and execution of showroom, exhibit booth and store displays; Highly creative and meticulous in detail; Strong knowledge in Adobe PageMaker, PhotoShop, Macromedia Dreamweaver; Good communication and interpersonal skills.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS

Male/Female, 24-30 years old; Graduate of Marketing, Communications or Journalism; Must have **EXCELLENT** oral and written English skills; Knowledge of Fukien or Mandarin an advantage but not required; Proficient in MS Office programs and use of internet and e-mail, and familiar with use of Adobe Photoshop, Pagemaker, or InDesign; Must be very organized and detail-oriented with ability to multi-task; Possess leadership skills and has team oriented attitude; proactive, flexible, discrete and trustworthy.

Applicants to e-mail comprehensive resumé to:
zgchrd@vasia.com
or mail to: Le Marben Bldg.
676 Florentino Torres St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

HHC Food Corporation is in need of qualified, highly motivated, ambitious, and high caliber individuals for its expansion program.

Assistant Store Managers

- Male or Female, between 23 and 28 years of age
- College degree holder of BS Hotel and Restaurant Management, BS Business Administration Major in Management or any related course, must be fluent in English/Tagalog, oral & written
- At least 1-2 years experience as an Assistant Store Manager in the Quick Service Industry
- Willing to undergo extensive training and have a rotating work schedule, must be able to work with minimal supervision
- Must be a team player, knows how to handle people properly, discipline, mature, professional, meticulous with details, has initiative, and committed to the company mission, vision, and values.

Please hand carry your comprehensive curriculum vitae with formal 2" x 2" (passport size) colored picture, letter of application stating expected salary, contact phone number and a photocopy of Transcript of Records to:

HHC Food Corporation
Boniwood Building
#6 A. Bonifacio Rd.
La Loma, Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: 731-19-89 or 740-21-32
Contact Person: Me-ann or Pamie

PHILAM FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.

An affiliate of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company, organized to create an elite distribution channel for the Philam Group of Companies in the areas of asset management, banking, healthcare, and insurance, is looking for people who are:

- A college graduate with at least two years of worthwhile experience in a sales related position;
- Entrepreneurial, with aspirations to direct and control bottom line;
- Strong in verbal and written communication;
- Enthusiastic in interpersonal interaction;
- Committed to and driven by goals;
- Trustworthy, with a strong sense of integrity;
- Self-motivated and imbued with a strong desire to succeed.

If you meet the qualifications above, we invite you to join the company as *Financial Advisors* and become its partners for success.

Interested parties are requested to submit their resumé to:

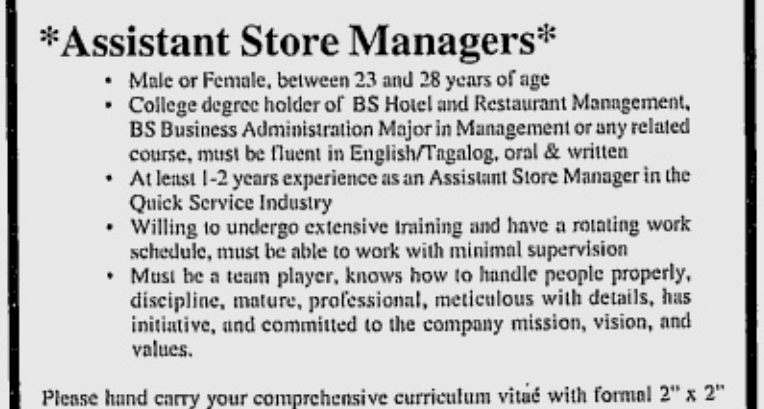
Philam Financial Advisory Services Inc.
c/o Corporate Human Capital Planning and Acquisition
23/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
email address: vina-r.sysantos@aig.com

or call
754-3801 or 754-3806
to attend a Career Opportunity Presentation on November 12

ACCOUNTANT & OFFICE CLERK

- FEMALE WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY
- 20 TO 24 YEARS OLD
- SINGLE
- COLLEGE GRADUATE & COMPUTER LITERATE
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH BOTH ORAL & WRITTEN

CALL 886-08-01 TO 08
LOOK FOR MONET



Asia United Bank

We are looking for highly motivated, competent and dynamic persons to join our team to deliver superior banking services:

TRADE MULTI-PROCESSOR

- He/she must have a comprehensive working knowledge of local rules and regulations and international trade policies.
- Qualified candidates will be responsible for the processing of the various documents needed for the trade products and services offered by the bank.
- Should have at least two to three (2-3) years of experience in international operations of a commercial bank.
- Good interpersonal skills. Computer literate.

REMITTANCE MARKETING OFFICER

- Successful candidate will be responsible for product management function and will handle implementation of programs and activities as established in the Product Marketing Plan. He/she will also conduct market research, product development, performance monitoring and enhancements.
- Should have at least three to five (3-5) years of working experience in product management, advertising or marketing.
- With research, analytical and product launch skills. Up to date on marketing trends and competitor's products and services.
- Highly proficient in oral and written communication skills. Computer literate.

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- Successful hires will be responsible in account solicitation and selling of retail consumer finance products.
- Ideal candidates are Business/Management graduates with at least three (3) years of experience preferably selling consumer related products.
- Selling and supervisory skills. Highly proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate.

ACCOUNT OFFICERS for MORTGAGE LOANS

- He/she will be responsible in account solicitation and should have experience CTS (Contract to sell) or developmental loans.
- Preferred candidates are graduates of Business/Management courses with at least three (3) years of experience in mortgage loans.
- Selling and supervisory skills. Highly proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate.

CREDIT ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH HEAD

- Successful hire will provide direction for the activities of the unit such as formulating, reviewing and implementing credit policies.
- A graduate of any four (4) year business, management or economics course, with four to seven (4-7) years experience in corporate planning or finance.
- He/she should have a high level of awareness on current developments and trends that may affect the operations of the bank. Financial analysis and report writing skills. Supervisory skills.
- Highly proficient in oral and written communication skills. Computer literate.

MARKETING ASSISTANTS

- Qualified candidates will provide administrative and clerical support to the Account Officers. He/she will assist in servicing and maintenance of accounts.
- Must be a graduate of a four (4) year course, preferably business.
- Excellent customer service orientation. Good written/verbal communication skills. Computer literate.

Qualified candidates are invited to personally apply from Monday to Friday or mail/e-mail comprehensive resumé and 2x2 photo to:

Asia United Bank
www.asiaunited.com.ph
Human Resources Management Division
22/F Rm. 2209 Antel Global Corporate Center
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

humanresources@asiaunited.com.ph

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ACCOUNT MANAGERS

THE JOB: Responsible for establishing long - term business relationships with the top corporations in the country. As Business Consultants, they will be involved in identifying customer requirements, recommending solutions and developing continuing business relationships.

QUALIFICATIONS: At least 25 years old, College Graduate, preferably with a BS degree in Business Administration, Marketing Management, Computer Science / Engineering, experience in IT application is an advantage, self-motivated, with good inter-personal, oral and written communication skills, with excellent presentation and negotiation skills, results-oriented, customer-focused, willing to be assigned in any of our branches, at least three (3) years working experience in sales and marketing, and with above average IQ.

PRINTING SYSTEMS & DOCUMENT PUBLISHING SYSTEMS ACCOUNT MANAGERS

THE JOB: Responsible for promoting Production Systems Solution Offerings in order to meet or exceed sales objectives from new accounts as well as with existing accounts. Also responsible for developing sales approach strategies for prospect build–up. Will lead and work with support team on how to approach and develop solutions / proposals to meet customer requirement specifications. Will be responsible for the management of the entire sales cycle. Build prospective account profile. Will provide key information critical in the development of sales approach strategy.

QUALIFICATIONS: At least 25 years old, College Graduate, with at least three (3) years experience on Specified Industries, must have experience in solution / technology selling, with consultative / multilevel selling skills, ability to manage the entire sales cycle, responsible, experience preferred in a Business to Business environment, transactional / systems printing or publishing systems sales Experience and industry-based knowledge (Financial Services, Telecom, Print Industry, Graphic Arts) is an advantage. Self-motivated, good oral and written communication. Possess above average intelligence quotient (IQ), computer literate, has the ability to satisfy the needs of customer both internal and external, can get along with different types of people & can work with minimum supervision.

XEROX BUSINESS SERVICES – SYSTEMS ANALYST

THE JOB: Will be responsible for Systems Analysis, Solutions Development and Design, Implementation and Sustaining of Document Management Solutions via Xerox Business Services / Systems Integration

QUALIFICATIONS: At least 25 years old, Computer Science or Engineering Graduate, with three (3) yrs. experience as Systems Analyst or related discipline and minimum of two (2) years experience in pre-sales.Must have technical background in the following areas: **Network Technology:** Local Area Network/Wide Area Network, Network Protocols; **Operating Systems:** Linux, Unix, Windows, Macintosh OS (familiarity with other OS and mainframes is a plus), Fuji Xerox Hardware and Software. Must have Experience in Systems Integration , with sales and technical background, must be responsible, self-motivated and result oriented and can work with minimum supervision.

FUJI XEROX PHILIPPINES, INC.
Human Resource Division
19th Floor, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 886-7075 to 94 loc. 109. Please look for: Ms. Juvy Vidal
or E-mail: juvy.vidal@phl.xerox.com

A LEADING PUBLISHING COMPANY
urgently needs:

SEMINAR & EVENTS COORDINATOR
- Female, single, not over 28 years old
- Mass Comm. / AB graduate with Education units preferably from a reputable university
- At least 5'4" with pleasing personality & good "PR" skills
- Willing to travel and work beyond office hours
- Proficient in both oral and written communication

GRAPHICS ARTIST
- M/F, Single, not more than 28 years old
- Graduate of Fine Arts or Visual Communication
- Highly proficient in Adobe Pagemaker, Illustrator, Photoshop and other MAC applications
- Good communication skills
- Able to meet deadlines and work under pressure
- Exposure/experience in a publishing firm is a plus

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT IN SOCIAL STUDIES
- Preferably Male/Single, not over 28 years old
- Graduate of AB History/Education major in Social Studies
- Computer proficient preferably in MAC applications
- Good command of both oral and written communication
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Qualified candidates may drop off or mail their resumé (strictly with contact nos.) w/ 2x2 photo and Transcript of Records at:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
1253 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
(near Sto. Domingo Church)
or contact Marvin @ 7122722 loc. 132/232

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- BALLOON ARTISTS
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Please send resume to: pallone@emirates.net.ae or franyfulgar@hotmail.com. Attention to Frany Fulgar. Interview and screening in Manila by second week Nov.

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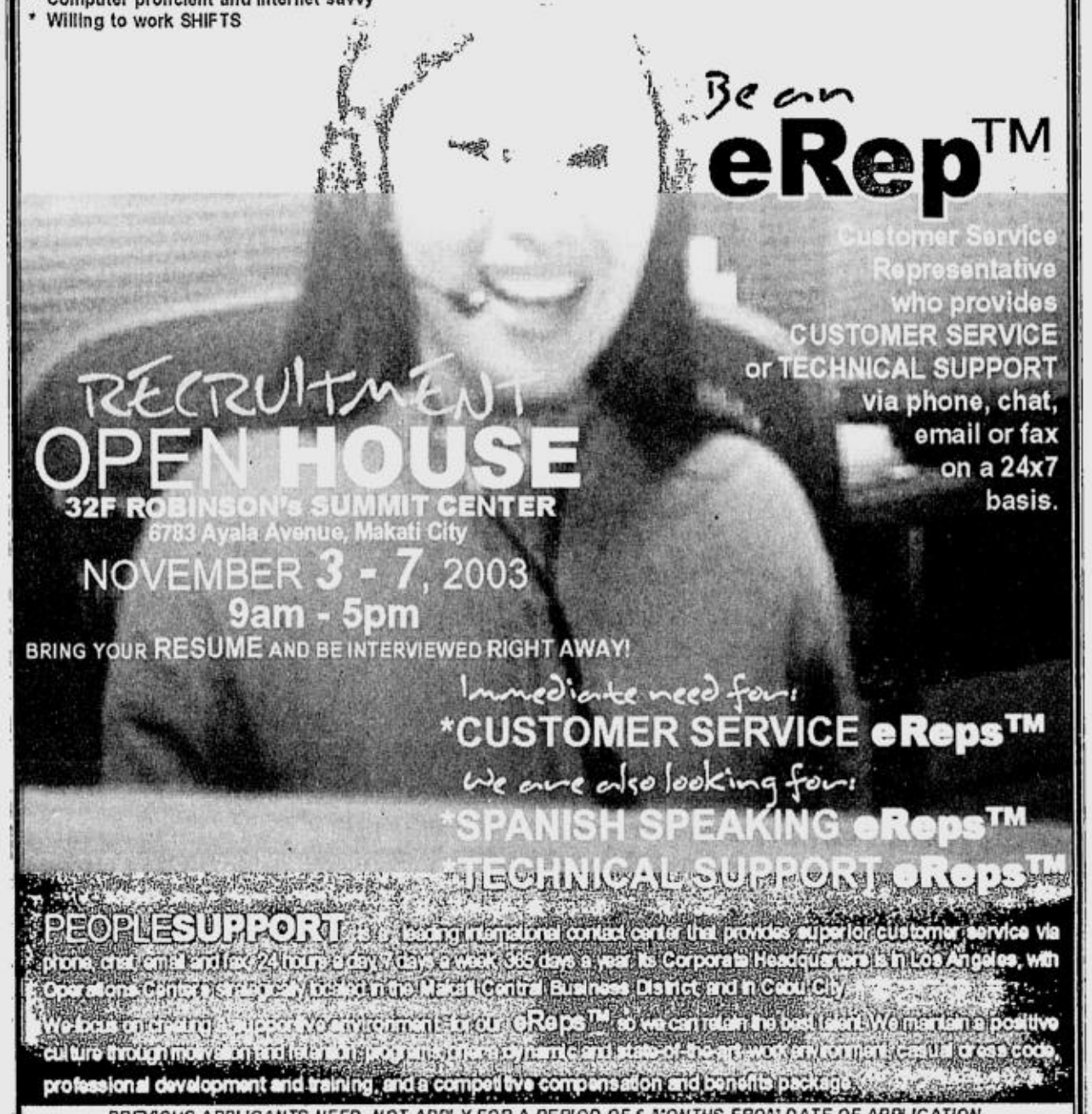
- Excellent ENGLISH communication skills
- Strong CUSTOMER SERVICE skills
- College graduates
- Experience or keen interest in technology/troubleshooting
- Values continuous learning, personal and professional development
- Computer proficient and internet savvy
- Willing to work SHIFTS



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Attention: I.T. Professionals

STSI The IT Company of METROBANK

Systematics Technology Services, Inc. (STSI), the information technology company of Metrobank is in search of candidates for the following positions:

Analyst/Programmer (Mainframe)
- Proficient in Systematics Banking or CardLinK Credit Card applications
- At least 2 years experience in programming under MVS, COBOL, CICS

Analyst/Programmer (Oracle)
- Proficient in Oracle development tools (Developer2000, 6i and 9i IDS), Oracle RDBMS, PL/SQL
- At least 2 years experience in Oracle development tools

Analyst/Programmer (Visual Basic)
- Proficient in Visual Basic 6.0, SQL Server 2000, MS Access 97/2000, Oracle RDBMS
- At least 2 years experience in client/server applications development
- Preferably with experience in web applications development using ASP, JavaScript and IIS

Customer Service Representative (Help Desk Personnel)
- Position will handle help desk functions for banking applications
- At least 1 year experience in a banking position

Systems Analyst
- Proficient in the functions and operations of the Systematics banking application
- At least 2 years experience in Systematics banking application

Operations Analyst
- At least 2 years experience in systems administration of client-server & open systems

Process Analyst
- Proficient in software development life cycle, software engineering methodology, and process improvement
- At least 4 years systems development experience, preferably in banking environment; mainframe experience preferred

Test Analyst
- At least 4 years experience in software testing and/or development, preferably in banking environment; mainframe experience preferred.

Web Designer
- Proficient in CSS, HTML, DHTML, Javascript, Dreamweaver, Flash, Photoshop and other design and programming tools and languages; Knowledge in ASP programming preferred
- At least 2 years experience in web and graphic design

Please send your resumé to:
Systematics Technology Services, Inc. (STSI)
Human Resource Management Department
11th Floor, PS Bank Center (former Solidbank Building)
777 Paseo De Roxas, Makati City. Tel. No. 811-4855 local 2058 look for Bam or Mitch
Fax. No. 811-4855 local 2011, E-mail Address: itcabbab@stsi.com.ph

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JOBMARKET

global stride

changing the face of customer care

Globalstride is a premier outsourced customer service solutions provider whose vision is to be the leading customer care provider in the world. We hire the best and brightest Customer Care Specialists to handle voice services, email response and live chat.

CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALISTS (CODE: CCS-Opns)

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Offer products and services through the telephone and other specified means of communications to a targeted list of customers in behalf of our international clients to generate awareness of the products/services being offered.
- Provide necessary information about the products and services
- Document all pertinent customer data using client-prescribed forms
- Meet the productivity requirements of clients on qualified calls.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Graduate of any four-year course
- With excellent interpersonal and communication skills in English using proper American grammar, diction, intonation, inflection and articulation.

ADVANTAGES:
- Previous experience in customer relations management, sales or marketing
- Ability to speak any foreign language (Spanish, Canadian French, Chinese, etc...)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES (Code: TSR-Opns)

JOB RESPONSIBILITES:
- Respond to e-mail or call-in inquiries from customers who encounter PC or Internet problems.
- Identify the main problem regarding the query and give appropriate solutions.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Graduate of any 4-year course related to computers or Information Technology.
- With at least a year of experience using PC's and be familiar with MS Office programs, Internet usage and minor troubleshooting.
- With excellent interpersonal and communication skills in English using proper American grammar, diction, intonation, inflection and articulation.

ADVANTAGES:
- A background in technical support, sales or customer relations' management.
- Certifications and licenses
- Ability to speak any foreign language (Spanish, Canadian French, Chinese, etc...)

Interested applicants can personally submit their updated resumes at our office or send it through fax or e-mail.

29/F IBM PLAZA BUILDING, EASTWOOD CITY
LIBIS, QUEZON CITY 1100
TEL 911.8866 / FAX 911.8854
jobs@webservasia.com.ph

CPILS-CEBU

NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

FULL-TIME ESL INSTRUCTORS

- Between 28-40 years old
- Preferably an Australian, American, Canadian and British citizen
- Preferably a holder of Philippine resident visa
- Preferably with bachelor's degree or CELTA/TEFL/TESL certificate
- Must be energetic, outgoing and creative
- Must possess good interpersonal skills

The Personnel Director, CPILS
Benedicto Building (formerly Harbor View Hotel)
M.J. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City Tel. # (032) 416-7637
Or e-mail: gracefb@mailcity.com

Stewardess / Deck hand *for* Charter Boat / Motor Yacht

A position has become available for a female crew member on a motor yacht in the Luzon area. The vessel is a charter boat / dive boat type of vessel with a small permanent crew. It is planned to sail to a number of locations in the South Pacific later in the year, and then travel on to Europe. The vessel is expected to be away for one to two years. The crew and family work together in the day to day operation of the vessel. The position entails just about everything from cabin stewarding, general housekeeping chores, assisting with cooking, and helping on deck. Applications with full details of experience, a recent ID photo and contact details (include an e-mail address if possible) should be sent to:

Stewardess / Deck Hand
Box # KA-006-03-JB
The Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg.,
636 TM Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila

NADER & EBRAHIM S/O HASSAN PHILIPPINES INC.

Nader & Ebrahim S/O Hassan Philippines, Inc. a Philippine based company which exports fresh fruits to international markets, Middle and Far East is looking for a:

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Essential Functions:
- Plans, organizes, directs and coordinates the Company's accounting, budgeting, revenue, grant accounting/fixed assets, budgeting and business analysis and reporting functions.
- Performs strategic analysis and financial projections.
- Develops an overall financial plan and provides high-level financial analysis (including sensitivity and risk assessment) consistent with the company's future vision and long-range plans.
- Formulates and implement policies, procedures and practices within the Finance Division
- Will serve as a financial advisor to the General Manager and the Board of Directors.
- Establishes and maintain an effective system of communications and financial accountability throughout the organizations.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:
- Must have the ability to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- Ability to supervise and train staff, including organizing, prioritizing, and scheduling work assignments.
- Excellent communication skills both orally and in writing. Necessary aptitudes include ability in understanding instructions, numerical ability, form and clerical perception, precision problem solving, with initiative, analytical ability, excellent memory, concentration, evaluative judgment, and execution skills.
- Skills in developing policy and procedure documentation.
- Will be required to travel internationally and work beyond normal work hours.

We offer competitive compensation package for a successful applicant. All interested applicants who are willing to be assigned in Davao City can email or submit comprehensive resumé, with 2x2 picture, transcript of records to:

The HRD Manager
NEH Philippines, Inc.
Door A1 Main Street, Doña Vicenta Village II
Bajada, Davao City 8000
Tel. Nos. 082-2245637 / 38
Fax No. 082-2245636
Email address: nehdavao@globequest.com.ph

Mister Donut

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Graduate of Industrial Engineering • Experience in manufacturing or production an advantage • Willing to work long hours and on a shifting schedule

Sanitary & Pollution Control Officer

Licensed Sanitary Engineer • With at least 2 years related experience

Liaison and Permits Officer

Graduate of at least a 2-year vocational course • With experience dealing with government agencies such as city/municipal halls, BIR, DTI, etc. • Willing to do fieldwork • Male

Auditors

Graduate of BS Accountancy with good scholastic records; preferably CPA • Computer literate; knowledge in SAP an advantage • With good analytical skills & can work under pressure

Kitchen Equipment Engineer

Graduate of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering • With at least 3 years experience in engineering design & maintenance & engineering economics • Knowledge in Autocadd an advantage

R & D Specialist

Graduate of BS Food Technology • With at least one (1) year experience as Technical Staff or Specialist gained from a bakeshop, confectionery, or donut business or at least knowledgeable in bakery ingredient analysis and production • Willing to work long hours • Computer literate • Based in or willing to be assigned to Canumay, Valenzuela City

Applicants for **all** of the above job openings **must** have excellent communication skills, proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, & PowerPoint, & in excellent health.

Send your resume, 2x2 recent ID picture, transcript of records, a brief essay of at least 200 words describing yourself & an application letter stating the position you are applying for & why we should choose you over other applicants, to:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT
G/F Ramcar, Sct. Santiago cor. Marathon Sts.,
Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail: hrmd.recruitment@qualservcentral.com

VISAYAN FORUM FOUNDATION, INC.

2873 Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, Manila, 1009 Philippines
Tel. Nos.: (632) 562-7821 / 562-7120 / 562-7810 • Telefax: (632) 563-4514
E-mail: visforum@skyinet.net • Website: www.visayanforum.org

The Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc., a Manila-based non-government organization working for the protection and development of marginalized migrants especially domestic workers, trafficked women and children is in need of:

(1) Regional Coordinator (for Negros) to be based in Bacolod City

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Preferably Ilonggo speaking
- Graduate in Behavioral Science, Psychology, Sociology Management or other related course
- Has at least 2 years experience in NGO developmental work specializing in children's rights, child labor and women's welfare
- Has held supervisory position in past jobs
- Has the ability to lead and work with a team
- Good in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- Ability to work with the team
- Good interpersonal relations especially with children

(1) Training Officer (Negros) to be based in Bacolod City

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Preferably Ilonggo speaking
- Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Development/Behavioral Science/Social Sciences
- At least 2 years working experience in training in an NGO and other developmental work
- Good in written and oral communications
- Computer literate
- Knowledgeable in project proposals making and reports
- Good interpersonal relations
- Experience on child rights and child labor issue is an advantage
- Ability to work with the team

Interested applicants may apply personally. Please bring with them their application letter with comprehensive resumé Applicants may also send their application directly to the:

Executive Director
Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.
2873 Lamayan Street, Sta. Ana, Manila
Telefax: 563-45-14
e-mail: visforum@info.com.ph

ASIA'S LARGEST CORPORATION
GRAND JOB OPENING
Sponsored by all Manager, Executives, AVP & Staff

URGENTLY NEEDS...

JUNIOR MANAGER...
EE, CE, ECE, ME, ChemEng., Geodetics, Arch. & any Technical Course

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
ComSchl., ComEng., ComProg., ComTech., ComSec., & any Computer Course

CORPORATE EXECUTIVE
Accountancy, Commerce, Education, LLB, & any BS and AB Course

The following courses are also welcome to apply
PT, OT, Nursing, Psychology, MedTech, Pharmacy & any Medical Courses

...Candidates applied in the 1st 3 days of the hiring will start immediately!!!

November 3-7, 2003 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
@ 235 C. Mercan Bldg., Edsa Extension, Pasay City
(walking distance from MRT-TAFT/LRT Station going to Roxas Boulevard near Allied Bank).
Bring Resumé, original credentials & 2x2 picture.

To prioritize your application, don't forget to clip this ad to your resumé, and look for Ms. Estrada

---

A Fast Growing Company is in immediate need of service-oriented and dynamic Professionals to be part of our innovative company.

• Marketing Officer
- ✓ Marketing graduate from an exclusive & reputable school
- ✓ Knowledgeable in developing proposals
- ✓ Knowledgeable in hardware/electrical items
- ✓ Effective in customer relations to achieve targets
- ✓ Dedicated and motivated
- ✓ Goal-oriented and able to work under pressure
- ✓ Fluent in oral & written communications (English)
- ✓ At least 25-30 years of age with pleasing personality

• Accounting Assistant
- ✓ Accounting Graduate from an exclusive & reputable school
- ✓ W/ at least 2 years working experience as an Accountant
- ✓ Dedicated and motivated
- ✓ Smart & Fast Learner
- ✓ Goal-oriented and able to work under pressure
- ✓ Fluent in oral & written communications (English & Chinese)
- ✓ At least 25-30 years of age with pleasing personality

***IF YOU THINK YOU ARE QUALIFIED & WANT TO MAKE IT BIG, Please send your resumé with your most recent picture at 2nd Flr., 280 San Fernando St., Binondo, Manila (5 mins. walking distance from Binondo Church) or send email at Sa_phils_corp@yahoo.com

---

Lydia's Lechon

The Home of the Original Lechon with Paella

THE ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER IN THE INDUSTRY
WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

SERVICE CREW

- Male/Female
- 18-23 years old
- With pleasing personality
- With good communication skills
- At least 2nd year college or a graduate of 2 years course
- *But High School Graduates may apply
- For Male Crew, must have knowledge in basic kitchen procedures

Please apply in person with bio-data & 2x2 picture at:

Lydia's Lechon - 49 A. Roces Avenue cor. Scout Reyes, Quezon City on October 27-30, 2003; 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Gloria Jean's Coffees is looking for qualified people to fill in the ff jobs for Metro-Manila stores:

Store Mgrs / Supvs. – college grad., bet. 24 & 32 yrs. old, with 3-5 yrs experience in restaurant operations that covers management of people, inventory, utilities, & eqpt; w/ exp. in customer service and local stores marketing.

Store Associates – college grad; customer service oriented; pleasant personality & good communication skills.

Pls send resumé and photo to Nona Baldo at 302A Landmark Villa 1, Kaimito St., Valle Verde 2, Pasig City or email nonabaldo@yahoo.com.

CPI Outsourcing

CPI Outsourcing is a reliable strategic partner to many companies that choose outsourcing as a strategic move to complement existing business strategies.

We are inviting candidates to be part of a dynamic team who believe in customer service, excellence and commitment. We offer excellent training opportunities, a chance to work in a fast-paced environment whose quality management systems are aligned to ISO 9001.

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

We are looking for aggressive individuals who are profit and goal oriented sharpened with a keen sense for business opportunities. Candidates must be graduates of any business or I/T course from a reputable school or university. Candidates should also have excellent product presentation and writing skills. Excellent incentive packages await the qualified candidates.

OPERATIONS STAFF

If you believe you have a keen sense for details, able to adhere to quality management systems and work together with some of the best companies in the industry, then this position is for you! Candidates should be graduates, fresh or otherwise, of any business course from any reputable college or university.

If you are a Manila based applicant, send your resumé in MS Word format through this e-mail address:

payroll@skylnet.net

• BOOKKEEPER •

- minimum of 5 yrs. experience vital
- possesses excellent record & filing skills
- must know BIR & Municipal filing procedures

Pls. mail your resumé to:

MK-134 (Aqua MigSol) c/o
Phil. Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City

A Japanese company engaged in brewed coffee business is currently in need of:

SALES EXECUTIVE

Qualifications:
- Male/Female (18-26 years old) Single
- . At least College level (High School graduate are welcome to apply)
- Hardworking/Honest/Pleasing personality
- With sales experience
- Willing to do fieldwork

Please submit your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture personally at:

Rm. 804 PM Apartment
#24 Matalino St., Diliman, Quezon City
(near Sulo Hotel in front of Equitable PCI Bank)
Tel. No. 435-2523; 921-4501 loc. 804

Note: We will only conduct interviews from Monday-Friday strictly 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 nn. only.

Asia Resource Alternatives, Inc.

is in need of

MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, CHEMICAL, and ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATIONS Engineers

for partnership projects and registration in data-base:

General Qualifications:
- PRC license holders
- good English speaking & writing skills
- willing to travel extensively
- experience with heat exchangers and with Japanese companies are advantages

Send applications by email to:

lissa@sms-global.net

Position-specific requirements and package benefits can be obtained by email, too.

THE BELLEVUE MANILA

The Bellevue Manila, the first and only full-service international standard deluxe hotel in the South of Metro Manila, with 222 deluxe rooms and suites, banquet facilities, Asian Specialty Restaurant, Entertainment Center, and Spa & Health Club, are inviting service-oriented young professionals for the following positions:

DIRECTOR OF SALES

Qualifications:

- *Preferably with the degree in Marketing or Hotel & Restaurant Management from a reputable school*
- *With at least (3) three years experience in overseeing and directing all aspects of sales operations, sales administration, advertising and public relations of a hotel or same industry*
- *Can very well execute and drive a Strategic Marketing Plan*
- *With excellent communication, leadership and managerial skills*

SALES MANAGER/EVENTS MANAGER
SALES COORDINATOR

Qualifications:

- *Male / Female, 25-35 years old, college graduate from a reputable school*
- *At least two (2) years experience in sales, hotel experience is a plus*
- *Articulate, resourceful and must possess a pleasing personality*
- *Customer focused, goal oriented and competitive*

TRAINING OFFICER

Qualifications:

- *25 – 35 years old, college graduate from a reputable school*
- *Certified Trainer of Train the Trainers Program and can design Training plans for all Departments*
- *Must possess a mature personality*
- *Excellent in oral & written communications*
- *Preferably two (2) years experience in handling all aspects of training and development of employees in a hotel or same industry*

RESTAURANT MANAGER

Qualifications:

- *28 to 40 years old*
- *Preferably a graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management from a reputable school*
- *Equipped with an ability to execute a Food & Beverage Plan and optimize quality levels of products and service.*
- *With excellent communication, leadership & managerial skills and can perform well under pressure*
- *Hotel background is an advantage*

Interested applicants should be creative, highly motivated, possess a strong drive and are team players.

Please send your resumé together with your recent 2x2 photo to:
The Human Resources Department, The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate Cyberzone
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1781
Telephone No: 771 8181 / Fax No: 771 8282
e-mail address: tbmnl@thebellevue.com.ph
Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.

---

ideas demand your attention.

Great ideas are always given everything they need at hp.
Join us, and you'll find a place where great ideas thrive.
Small wonder the best ones always seem to find themselves at hp.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR LARGE FORMAT PRINTERS

Roles & Responsibilities

Mission
Drive commercial printing (large format) business in country so as to grow revenue and market share in targeted segments.

Core Responsibilities
- Meet/exceed revenue performance for commercial printing (large format – PL30) business.
- Execute in country tactical and promotional programs to maximize revenue growth.
- Execute market development activities, as designated by region, to create a growth conduit for longer term large format printing business
- Work with country IPG specialist to grow large format printer's penetration in corporate accounts. Manage existing funnels and continuously hunt for new ones.
- Manage final tier resellers (DBPs) to make sure unfair mindshare for hp large format printing business. Be on a continuous lookout for new potential resellers to contribute to the business, so as to create a thriving and incremental growth opportunity.
- Work with local ISV to differentiate hp large format business from the rest of the competition.
- Be on a lookout for competitive landscape and feedback to the region, including pricing, new product introduction etc.
- Drive existing and new ISV large format printing solutions into vertical market organizations (eg. FSI, manufacturing) through the implementation of demand and awareness generation activities (seminars, training, communication).
- Drive and support solutions bundling program with IPS category managers.
- Provide lighting fast response to day-to-day issues raised by customers, partners and internal hp sales force.

Ideal Candidate:
- At least 8 years work experience in Product Marketing, Channel Management, and /or commercial end user sales
- Experience in large format printing a plus but not required
- MBA will be a plus but not required
- Mature, Self-Motivated, Leader, Team-Player, Analytical

Put your ideas to work. Begin by applying at

hp invent

All applications should be coursed through
The HP Recruitment Officer,
International Strategic Intelligence Solutions, Inc.
Suite 1104, 139 Corporate Center, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Fax 840 1031 aileen.gallinera@istrategic.com

Our business thrives on relationships.

ePacific Global offers the best solutions for connecting and serving customers.

We believe every contact with a customer is a chance to build and maintain a long business relationship.

If you love customers the way we do, ***start your relationship with us today!***

Call Center Agents (CCA)
- College graduate
- With or without experience
- With excellent communication skills
- Customer-oriented & highly motivated
- Can work under pressure
- Willing to work on shifts

Team Leader
- College graduate
- Excellent communication skills
- At least 1-year experience working in a call center
- Must be able to manage a team effectively by providing coaching and feedback
- Willing to work on shifts

Call Center Manager
- College graduate
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- At least 2 years working experience in a call center/service-oriented industry
- Must have had previous supervisory experience
- Must possess excellent managerial skills
- Willing to work on shifts

Recruitment Staff
- Graduate of Psychology or other related fields
- With 1–2 years working experience in HR, handling recruitment
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Can handle pressure

Recruitment Manager
- BS Psychology graduate or other related fields
- At least 3 years relevant experience handling recruitment as a specialist or in a supervisory capacity
- Excellent interpersonal skills, able to maintain effective interaction across all levels of the organization
- Experience in the call center industry is an advantage

Internal Audit Manager
- At least 3 years total managerial experience in internal and external auditing (risk-based)
- Certified Public Accountant
- Strong analytical skill and a high degree of objectivity
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Mature and professional mindset/behavior
- Highly resourceful

Call Center Agent applicants are encouraged to drop by our office every afternoon between 2 and 4, Mondays thru Fridays, for an immediate interview.

ePacific Global Contact Center Inc.
17th Floor Orient Square Bldg.
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Apply online at www.epacificglobal.com/careers
Fax: 687-0474

Rustan's

Urgently needs...

BRAND MANAGERS
- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year Business related course preferably with excellent academic records
- With at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- Must be analytical, results oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense
- Must have excellent communication skills

STORE MANAGERS
- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business related course
- Must have an extensive work exposure in Boutique/Store Operations
- Must have an exposure in sales, marketing, events and promotions management
- Must possess excellent customer service orientation
- Must have good communication and team management skills
- Willing to work on weekends and holidays

EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS SPECIALIST
- Graduate of Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations or any related course
- With at least one (1) year work experience in Events Management & Promotional Activities
- Must have high level of planning and negotiation skills and time management
- Good network of Advertising Agencies & Suppliers would be an advantage
- Excellent communication skills
- Must be computer literate

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of Accounting, Finance or any business related course
- At least one (1) year experience in payroll and benefits (knowledge in Peopleware System is an advantage)
- Highly computer literate with extensive knowledge in Word, Excel and Outlook
- Fluent in both oral and written communication
- People-oriented, trustworthy and able to work under pressure

AUDIT ANALYSTS
- Female, between 21 to 27 years old
- BS-Industrial Engr. or Accounting graduate
- Preferably CPA and/or with related job experience in external or internal audit, accounting, methods systems analysis and designs
- With IT/Audit background
- Reliable, hardworking, trustworthy, with good moral character

MEDIA COORDINATOR
- Graduate of Journalism, Mass Communication, Liberal Arts or any related course
- Must have at least a year of working experience in Marketing Communications & press media relations
- Exposure in actual print, television & Radio Media is an advantage
- Must have established rapport with advertising agencies
- Excellent time management, organizing & news writing skills

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may send their comprehensive resumé with contact numbers and recent 2x2 photo to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
HROD Division
G/F, El Mercasol Bldg.,
EDSA, Mandaluyong City

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOBMarket ONLINE

NURSES WANTED FOR NEW YORK HOSPITALS

CGFNS Passers register immediately!

$500 Sign-On Cash Bonus!

We offer Highest Hourly Rates: $20-$40
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Work in the world's greatest hospitals in New York.

Immediately hiring CGFNS passers & nurses awaiting CGFNS results.
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FREE:
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Contact Shaindy J, International Recruiter: PH: 718-387-8163
EMAIL: nurses@whiteglovecare.com, FAX Resume: 718-387-8359
Visit us online at www.whiteglovecare.com

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EXPERIENCED LARGE-FORMAT PRINTER OPERATOR

P.O.P. Advertising • Medium-Format Artworks • Trade Show Advertising • Photographic Prints • Backlit and Frontlit Posters • Wall Decorations • Railway Station Posters • Banners • Streamers • Billboards • Fleet Graphics • Murals • Architectural Signs • Back-drops

Call for appointment:
Allan Biason at 531-1694 / 533-1568 to 69

Reedley International School
A SINGAPORE-AMERICAN SCHOOL

URGENTLY NEEDS:

- ☐ FRENCH & ESL TEACHERS
- ☐ BILINGUAL TEACHERS (ENGLISH/KOREAN)
- ☐ SPED TEACHERS (can handle Dyslexics)
- ☐ SUBJECT COORDINATORS (minimum of 10 years experience)

Submit complete resumé w/ letter of application & 2x2 picture to:
Ms. MONA RIZELLE D. AUSTRIA
Pasig Blvd. cor. Rosemarie Lane, Pasig City

The Soon-to-open
GRANDE ISLAND RESORT
A Private Resort in the middle of the
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE

IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL
(Generally, 2-3 yrs. Minimum experience)

A. HEAD OFFICE
- Senior Executive Assistant *

B. SALES MARKETING OFFICE
- Sales/Marketing Head *
- Sales/Marketing Officers *

C. FRONT OFFICE
- Resident Manager
- Front Desk Clerks
- Reservations/Ticketing Clerks
- Housekeeping Team Leaders
- Bell Captain
- Telephone Operators
- Front Desk Supervisors
- Reservations Supervisor
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Housekeeping Attendants
- Bellmen/Baghandlers
- Cashiers

D. HRD/ADMIN OFFICE
- HRD Head
- Personnel Clerks
- Water Sports Coordinator
- Personnel Supervisor
- Security Officer
- Lifeguards

E. ACCOUNTING OFFICE
- Senior Accountants
- Property Officers/Clerks
- Accounting Clerks
- Purchasing Clerks

F. FOOD AND BEVERAGE OFFICE
- Food and Beverage Head
- Cooks
- Bartenders
- Food and Beverage Supervisor
- Waiters

G. MIS OFFICE
- Network Specialist (Experienced in LAN/WAN, Fiber Optic and CAT5 network cabling, and CISCO hubs/routers)

H. ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE OFFICE
- Electro-Mechanical Technicians (Generator sets, vehicles, construction equipment, telecom equipments)
- Mechanics (Generator sets, vehicles, construction equipment)
- Electricians (Building electricians, auto electricians)
- Plumbers
- Gardeners / Grass cutters

I. VESSEL / PORT OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE
- Port Captain (Licensed Captain/Major Patron, experienced in passenger ferry port operations)
- Chief Engineer (Licensed 2nd Marine Engineer)
- Electronic Technician (Experienced in Ship/Bridge Control)
- Electro-Mechanical Technicians (Experienced in ship aircons, electrical control panels, other electro-mechanical related)

For Manila-based applicants, submit your resumé to:

GFTG PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION
2604-C 26th Flr., Tektite Tower East, Philippine Stock Exchange Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel. No. (02) 6352951-55
e-mail: hrd@grandeislandresort.com

For Subic-based applicants, submit your resumé to

GFTG PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION
Pier/Structure 684, Waterfront Road, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Tel. No. (047) 252-3278
Attention: Ms. Leila V. Aviles

Note:
1. Please indicate the position applied for.
2. The Three (3) positions with * are to be based in our Tektite Tower Ortigas Office.
3. All other positions are to be based in Subic/Grande Island Resort.
4. There shall be a job/recruitment activity on November 5, 2003 (Wednesday) at our Subic Office.
5. Employment shall start in December 2003.

CENTURY PACIFIC GROUP

We are a leading, diversified food and beverage-based enterprise that provides products of high quality and superior value to consumers here and abroad.
We are currently in need of highly competent and motivated professionals who will help us in realizing our company's vision and mission.

SR. VAN SALESMAN for Cebu, Bicol and Baguio
Reports directly to the District Sales Manager. Handles and manages a group of tertiary accounts in a given area, and works under general supervision. Relies on instructions and pre-established guidelines to perform the functions of the job. With at least 1-2 years route selling experience. Male, 25-30 years old, with a Bachelor's degree and must be computer literate. Must have a good command of oral and written communication, licensed to drive a van / truck. Able to relate to different types of people and to all levels in the organization. Consistently sets high quality standards at work, highly flexible and self-motivated.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST
With a degree in Computer Science or Computer Engineering, the person we have in mind shall be responsible for providing technical and user support in the daily operations of both main office and its subsidiaries. He/She must be knowledgeable and experienced with Windows 2000 installation, network and computer repair and maintenance, internet and intranet administration, Cisco Router administration and UNIX system administration. Preferred candidate/s should possess good interpersonal skills, highly flexible, can work well under pressure and can withstand extended hours and willing to travel.

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANTS (01-JrAct)
We are looking for graduates of Accountancy, preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA). With at least 2 years experience in general accounting and bookkeeping will be an advantage. Additional responsibilities include, inventory accounting,AP system and analysis of the whole accounting cycle. Well versed with management services applied in a manufacturing setting is an advantage.

COST AND BUDGET ANALYST (01-CBA)
The person we have in mind is a BSBA Accounting graduate, who is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), and preferably with Post Graduate studies. Male/Female, between 30-35 years old, with at least 5-10 years solid experience in management accounting work in a manufacturing set-up and at least 2-3 years supervisory experience. With good interpersonal skills, must be highly motivated, aggressive, creative, analytical and results oriented individual.

STORE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS (06-SAA)
With at least 1 year experience working in the same field. Responsible for the administrative functions of a food service establishment such as bookkeeping, auditing, 201 maintenance, filing of important documents, store payroll and processing of government related documents . For the position, we need graduates of business courses preferably Accounting or Management; not over 25 years old; Female, must be computer literate.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES (06-MT)
College graduates with at least 1-2 years supervisory experience in food-service establishments. With a bachelor's degree in HRM, Food Nutrition, Business Management or any related discipline .

Interested candidates may send their updated resume, recent (2x2) photo, photocopy of Official Transcript of Records and photocopy of recent NBI clearance to:
CODE:(_____)
MANILA P.O. Box 3820 or MAKATI P.O. Box 1400
or email their resume to: hrd@centurytuna.com.ph

Cebu applicants for sales position may send their resume to:
156-A Fortuna St., Vel-Ouano Realty Bldg., Mandaue City, Cebu

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EVT
GROUP OF COMPANIES

Importer
Manufacturer
Distributor, Chain store
Building materials & Interior Décor

We need the best for expansion...
Luzon, Metro Manila, Visayas, Mindanao

Marketing Supervisor
College graduate, at least 2 years experience in building material sales.

Project Sales Consultants
Female or Male, college level, full time or part time, w/ very attractive commission incentives.

Showroom O.I.C.
Female, college graduate, preferably w/ some working experience, salary plus incentives.

Showroom Salesman
Male or Female, college level, wage rate plus commission.

Secretary
Female, college graduate of a reputable university, very pleasant personality w/ excellent communication skills.

Accounting Clerk, Supervisor
B.S. Accountancy graduate of reputable university
Company can provide free boarding house:
working place near U.P., Ateneo.
Chinese speaking a plus

H.R.D. Personnel
Female, graduate of a reputable university,
preferably w/ experience in Human Resource Management.

Furniture designer, Production Supervisor
at least 5 years experience

Accept working student for partime job.

Applicants for all of the above job openings must have excellent communication skills, proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, & PowerPoint, & in excellent health.

Send your resumé, 2x2 present ID picture, transcript of records, a brief essay of at least 200 words describing yourself & an application letter stating the position you are applying for & why we should choose you over other applicants, to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT
#507 Raffles Corporate Center Emerald Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 900-3333/900-3430
e-mail: evtpersonel@hotmail.com

A New York Call Center

- **Account Executives** (P190, 000- P250, 000 per annum)
  - Preferably a graduate of UP, Ateneo or La Salle
  - At least 1 year experience in the field of sales
  - Computer literate
  - Good oral and written communication skills
  - Willing to go on field and have flexible working hours
  - Possesses a NON-PROFESSIONAL driver's license an advantage
- **Outbound Sales Agents** (P117, 000- P160, 000 per annum)
  - 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
  - Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
  - Basic computer knowledge
  - Fresh graduates are welcome
- **Computer Technician** (P100, 000 - P150, 000 per annum)
  - Must be knowledgeable Networking
  - Willing to be trained
  - Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
  - Must know how to drive a car or motorcycle
  - Fresh graduates are welcome

SEND YOUR RESUMES WITH PICTURE TO:
marcia@nytelecon.com; Fax 729-0160
P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village,
Makati City

A progressive snack food manufacturing company is in immediate need of:

Bakery Technician
- A graduate of Food Technology, Hotel & Restaurant Management (HRM), or Nutrition and Dietetics.
- Preferably with expertise in bread making
- With supervisory skills
- At least 5 years working experience
- Should be able to handle baking machinery
- Willing to be assigned abroad

Sales Assistant / Receptionist
- Female, age 22 to 27 years old
- College graduate with pleasing personality
- Conversant and fluent in English

Marketing Assistant
- Male or Female, age 22 to 27 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Excellent interpersonal marketing and communication skills

Accountant
- Must be Certified Public Accountant
- With work experience
- Male or Female, age 25 to 30 years old
- Willing to be assigned in Imus, Cavite

Mechanical Engineer
- A graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering
- Has supervisory experience
- Computer literate, knowledge in Autocad is an advantage
- Knowledgeable in machine troubleshooting, preventive maintenance and fabrication.
- Willing to be assigned in Imus, Cavite

Salaries are commensurate to qualifications:
Interested applicants may send their complete resumés and credentials/references (including 2" x 2" ID photo) to:
HRD Manager 2225 Tolentino St., Pasay City 1300
Please indicate the position you are applying for.

GROW WITH US !!!

A STABLE & EXPANDING INDUSTRY LEADER DEALING WITH WORLD CLASS BRANDS NEEDS HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND RESULTS DRIVEN PROFESSIONALS

►BRAND MANAGER
A business degree holder from a reputable school, not more than 35 years of age, with at least 3 years solid all-around marketing work experience in the consumer industry; personable, motivated, and has excellent communication skills

►GRAPHIC ARTIST
Female, a graduate of Advertising or Computer-related course, not more than 30 years of age with a minimum of 1-2 years experience in designing creative artwork using PC, proficient in COREL and ADOBE software, preferably has web design experience; meticulous and patient.

►LOGISTICS & INVENTORY STAFF
Female, a graduate of Industrial Engineer or any related course, not more than 30 years of age 1-3 years working experience in warehouse operations and inventory control, has knowledge in documentation, computer literate, can work under pressure

►PROGRAMMER
A graduate of any I.T. course, not more than 30 years of age, more than 2 years related work experience, knowledgeable in visual basic, web-based application, and SQL database and MS Access data migration to SQL7, focused, organized and systematic.

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An Interior Design or Architecture graduate, not more than 28 years of age, has at least one year work experience preferably in selling high-end kitchen appliances, kitchen cabinets, and furniture, familiar with Autocad, personable, creative.

A competitive compensation package awaits qualified candidates
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HR ASSISTANT
Female, BS Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate; with office work experience in HR and admin operation; proficient in oral & written communication; computer literate

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Please come in their business attire from Mondays to Wednesdays every week at 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Bring your comprehensive resumé 2x2 picture and other credentials to the address below:

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DAVID'S SALON INC.
DSI Bldg., 1251 Cardona St.,
JP Rizal Makati City

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
Vivre debout

is in need of a **PHYSIOTHERAPIST/SOCIAL WORKER** with the following qualifications:
- Graduate of Physical Therapy (PT) course / BS Social Work
- At least 2 years work experience in Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons; Community Base Rehabilitation; Project Management and Development.
- Good oral and written communication and training skills
- Responsible, well-organized and can work with less supervision
- Preferably with experience in an NGO

THIS POSITION IS FOR HIRING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER 2003

Please send your resumé and/or CV through post mail, fax, or e-mail to:
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42 Ponce Street San Lorenzo Village, 1223 Makati City
E-mail: hiphil03@yahoo.com Fax No.: (02) 817-0147

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25th Floor, BPI Buendia Center,
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 1200
e-mail: bblml@bbl.com.ph

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kindly send your comprehensive resume and include salary expectation (in TXT format) to nl_mla@i-manila.com.ph

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- Highly developed verbal, written and oral communication skills are essential
- Prior experience in writing test plans for software products
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- Analyzes test results to ensure existing functionality and recommends corrective action; and consults with development engineers and/or Technical Sales Services in resolution of problems.
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An advantage if you have an MS **in Computer Science, Electrical Engineering,** or other related discipline and solid knowledge of electronics and basic programming skills. **Five+** years automated software test experience with progressing responsibility on Windows and UNIX technologies required. **Engineering positions** are available as well.

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- Define and compile quality data internally and externally and consistently work with the management team in the development/ design and execution of departmental and/or organizational quality-programs.
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DESKTOP PUBLISHER
- Familiar with Adobe Photoshop, CorelDraw and other desktop applications
- Knowledge in web design programming is an advantage
- Starting salary P 7,000 - 8,000

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Interested applicants must report between 9am to 6pm with picture and pertinent documents at 402 P. Guevarra St. Brgy. Sta. Lucia, San Juan, Metro Manila (near Home Cable) Tel. #: 727-1919
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Come visit us personally or send resumé, transcript and 2x2 ID photo to:

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GRAPHICS OPERATORS
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SALES SUPPORT PERSONNEL
Responsible for marketing proposals, pricing, sales analysis.

ACCOUNTING CLERK
With at least one year work experience in Timekeeping & Payroll Processing.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ASSISTANT
With at least one year work experience in Employee Relations.

APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT STAFF
Knowledgeable in Clipper/Fox Pro/ C language, Visual Basic, Web Tools.

FILES MANAGEMENT STAFF
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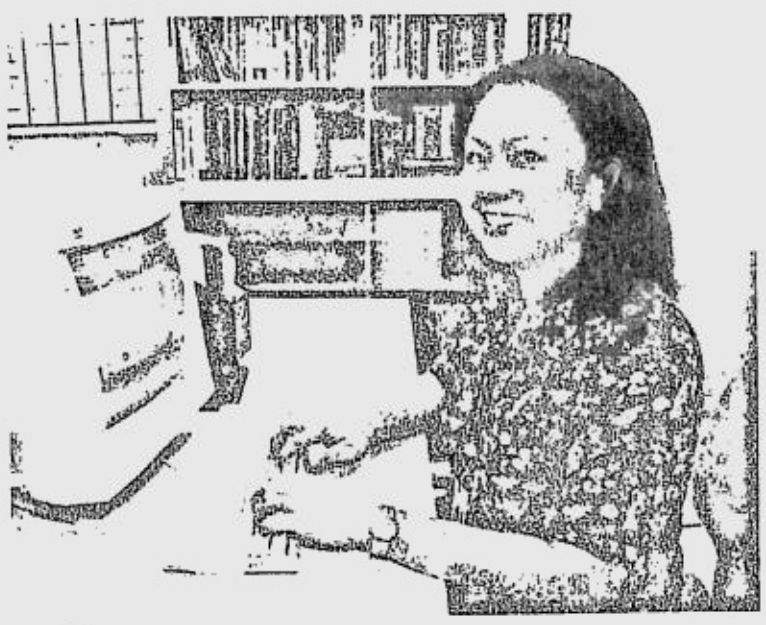
Please visit our corporate website www.spitech.com
(click on CAREERS then go to CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES)
for important details on the advertised and other vacant positions.
We encourage interested and qualified candidates to send their applications online OR send the following to our office address at SPI HR Office 2F Sky Freight Building C, NAIA Avenue corner PASCOR Drive, Parañaque City: Updated resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture, Transcript of Records, Diploma and SSS ID or E1 Form.

'Profiler' uses skills to hire the right people

By Candy G. Villanueva



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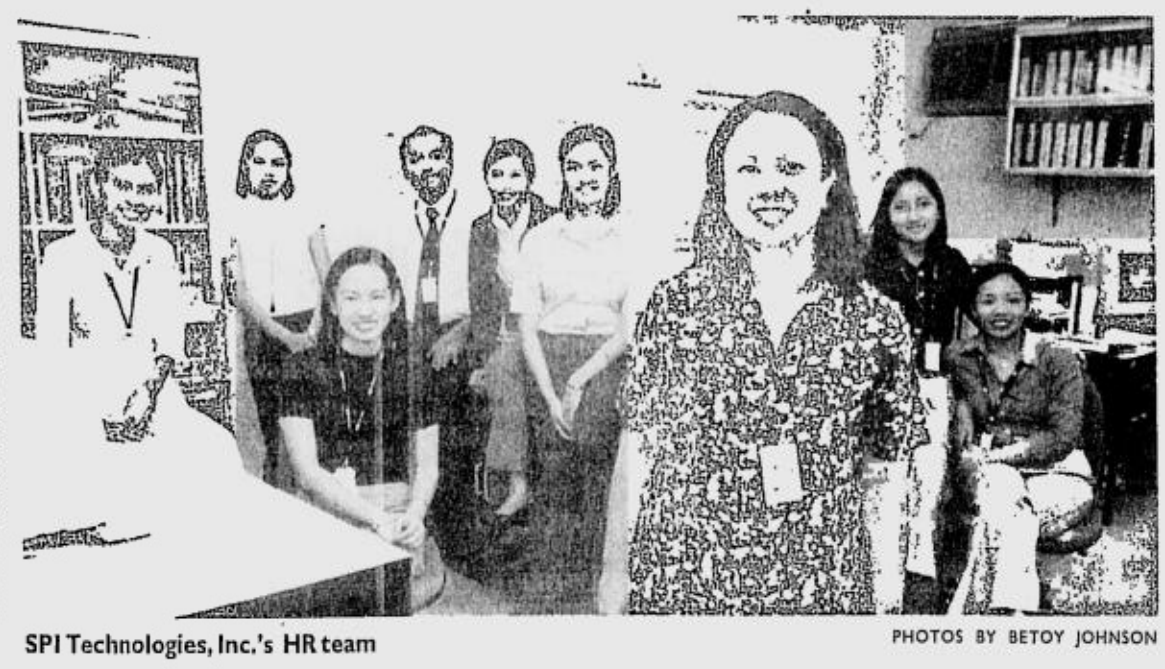

SPI Technologies, Inc.'s HR team

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

AT 5 feet and 2 inches, Alethea Leninia Teresita Panganiban-Ginez stands tall and proud. Aly, as she is fondly called, is a seasoned practitioner in the human resources field. With a well-rounded HR experience ranging from recruitment, training, employee relations and manpower planning, Ginez is on top of her game.

Presently the Recruitment and Manpower Planning Manager of SPI (Saztec Philippines Inc.) Technologies, Inc. and its subsidiary companies, Ginez handles the manpower requisitions of six companies with diverse businesses. She heads a team of eight recruitment personnel.

SPI Technologies, Inc. is a business process outsourcing (BPO) company that helps companies and institutions around the world improve their organizational efficiency. With eight production sites in Asia and seven project management and customer support centers in North America and Europe, SPI services include call center services and CRM programs, healthcare documentation, financial and transactional BPO, and legacy software maintenance, application development and database solutions.

HR Focus

Psychological profiles

After finishing a BS Psychology degree from the Ateneo de Manila University, Ginez's first people oriented job was as adviser and teacher for sixth graders in the Ateneo Grade School Department. Then, Ginez worked as a psychometrician for the Philippine Psychological Corporation. Possessing a general curiosity and interest for the mystery of the human mind, she liked analyzing psychological profiles. It was by profiling people that Ginez discovered her love for the HR field. "I realized I wanted to be in HR when I started interviewing examinees for their psychological profiles," Ginez recalls. "I was struck by all the learnings I gleaned from each of my interviewees. Profiling people based on a series of exams and interviews was an enriching experience for me then because I got disciplined in releasing accurate and specific write-ups about an applicant's qualifications vis-à-vis the job competencies."

HR exposure

Discovering her true calling, Ginez honed her HR skills in Globe Telecoms in recruitment, training and employee relations. She was eventually promoted to recruitment officer. For almost five years, Ginez immersed herself in the different HR areas. She further improved on her people skills when she took on the job of senior manager for recruitment at the AMA Group of Companies.

After her brief stint with the AMA Group of Companies, Ginez found a home in SPI Technologies. Ginez says she savors the "opportunities to continuously improve or enhance our processes, practices and services."

Teamwork

SPI's HR Manager applies a personal touch when dealing with her people. She makes it a point to talk to everyone in the team everyday not only about eager-beaver applicants and disgruntled employees but about life and personal interests as well. "I encourage and support their respective initiatives for personal improvement as well as care for family and loved ones," Ginez shares.

To promote teamwork, she says, "I trust, empower and support my team members in accomplishing major endeavors and delivering the required services at a faster turnaround time." She believes that it is important to "anticipate the future needs of our clients as well as the team's to provide creative solutions."

It is part of Ginez's plan to motivate her group by conducting programs and initiatives. Always on the lookout for her team's welfare, she creates opportunities for learning and development. She also makes it a point that each individual effort or achievement is recognized.

Challenges

SPI's HR leader does not easily give up. She seizes every moment, good or bad, and "treasures every opportunity to make things better." Ginez claims that she draws on resilience, commitment, faith, flexibility and creativity to handle the challenges of her job. She also uses her weaknesses to work for her. Because of her single-minded desire to achieve, she often tends to cram, trying "to do things all at the same time and do everything possible."

"Being a recruitment manager is both challenging and rewarding. It is challenging because of the creative strategies and solutions I have to come up with to address a particular client's requirement." Taking these challenges in stride, Ginez claims without hesitation, "I am exactly where I want to be right now." Aside from the pleasure of a job well done, Ginez also looks forward to seeing "our clients' satisfied smiles and pleasant greetings."

Continuous learning

Thriving on pressure to push her to deliver the best results and continuously improve herself, she keeps abreast of trends and patterns in the labor market, employment sector and from competitors. "I read books on HR performance measures, talent management and work/personal effectiveness," Ginez adds.

Ginez also learns from those around her. "I exchange ideas with my co-managers and immediate superior."

Ginez realizes education is also key to improving one's craft. A professional and a scholar, she is currently enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila University for a master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. She further enriches her knowledge by attending seminars, trainings and conferences where she gets to interact with colleagues and is exposed to the trade outside the company.

Armed with the technical know-how and invaluable experience, Ginez leaves the rest to the "Big Boss" in heaven. "I always pray for each endeavor to be a success." She urges those who wish to take the HR path to "love doing recruitment, dealing with people, delighting customers and empowering people." Ginez declares that HR practitioners should have "a generous heart and an open mind."

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ICHIZEN FRANCHISE CORPORATION
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J.F. RUBBER PHILS., INC.

A manufacturer of Quality Rubber Parts for automotive wiring harness and precision rubbers is currently in need of:

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- Engineering Graduate (BSME, BSEE or BSIE)
- At least 3 to 5 years experience as supervisor in any manufacturing firm
- With experience in machine maintenance
- Knowledgeable in ISO 9002/QS 9000 documentations, procedures and implementations
- Excellent Oral & Written communication skills; can relate well in all levels of the organization
- Result Oriented
- Computer literate

SALES & MARKETING ASSISTANT
- Male/Female 20-30 years old
- Graduate of Engineering/Commerce or other related courses
- Knowledgeable in ISO 9002/QS 9000 documentations, procedures and implementations.
- Excellent Oral & Written communication/presentation skills; can relate well in all levels of the organization
- Good Driving Skills & with driver's license
- Result Oriented
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- Japanese-speaking/writing an advantage
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Interested applicants may send their letter of application plus comprehensive resumé with 2x2 recent photo.

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- Male, 30-35 years old with professional driver's license.
- Presentable looking.
- Good moral character.
- Can give references.
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- Must be physically fit and in very good health.
- Must be a NON-SMOKER.
- Must be familiar with Metro Manila streets.
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- Those who have worked abroad **need not** apply.

For the qualified applicant, we offer a salary of P10,500.00 a month with free meals.

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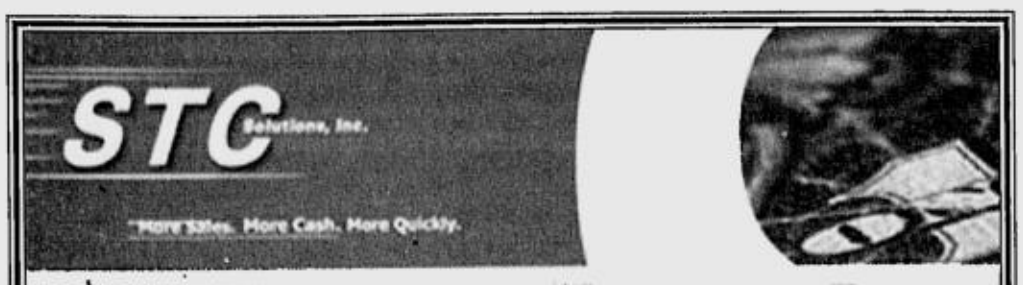

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At least 2 years' college education. 1 year's collection or sales experience. General knowledge of customer service and collection process. Proficient in using various software programs. Knowledge of US collection laws a plus. Auto dialer experience preferred.

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TO BE PART OF OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

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Qualifications:

1. **Mechanical Engineering graduate from a reputable engineering college or university.**
2. **Refrigeration experience as evidenced by his employment in other refrigeration companies both here and abroad.**
3. **Supervisory and Managerial work experience as evidenced by various positions he has assumed in past work experience.**
4. **Must be at least 35 years old and willing to assume key functions and responsibilities in the company.**

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- will assist the Finance Manager in day-to-day activities such as payable processing, check preparation & releasing, tax reporting, petty cash disbursements, and PeopleSoft roll-out.

Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or any related courses; preferably CPA; at least 4 years experience in General & Accounts Payable Accounting, preferably from a service multinational company; knowledge in tax reporting; relevant experience in a computerized accounting environment, preferably PeopleSoft; excellent communication skills, both oral and written English; can demonstrate successful experience in working individually and with a team.

General Services Coordinator

(Code: GSC)

- will manage day-to-day administrative functions such as purchasing and vendor relations, facilities maintenance, workspace/building issues, events coordination, travel assignments, and other related activities. The chosen candidate will be in close coordination with Finance and Admin, Technical Operations, and Human Resources.

Candidates must be a College graduate, preferably in Engineering or Business; willing to put in long hours, highly flexible to exceed customer expectations; fluent in verbal and written English; can develop and effectively communicate policy; proficient in MS Office (Outlook, Word, Excel, Powerpoint); with 3-8 years experience in the following areas:

- *Security and housekeeping (janitorial) services*
- *Office Services – messengerial services, purchasing, secretarial services, office supplies management, reception*
- Experience in a business center an advantage – providing business services to traveling executives
- Events coordination – business meetings, functions, employee events
- Office lay-out planning & implementation
- Handling travel needs of executives

Airline Ticket Auditors (Code:ATA)

- will be responsible for reviewing airline-related transactions for international carriers.

Candidates must possess a University degree with good academic record; airline and travel agency experience is a plus; must be willing to work on shifts (6am-2pm; 2-10pm), weekends, and holidays and undergo pre-employment training (allowance provided); with at least one year Office experience; with good grasp of Microsoft Office products.

Contract Administration Staff

(Code: CAS)

- will provide support to the Manila Business Process Outsourcing group. Successful candidate will maintain a comprehensive "contract tracking" database and ensure quality of contracts coded in the system.

Candidates must be a College graduate (preferably of Secretarial Administration or Library Science courses); with related working experience; can demonstrate strong organizational skills and can work with minimal supervision; with excellent communication skills, both oral and written English; with working knowledge of Microsoft Office Products, especially MS Word, Excel, and Access Database; willing to work on shifts (6am-2pm; 2-10pm).

Interested applicants may send their resume, recent photo, and official transcript of records to:

The Human Resources Department
Navitaire International, LLC
16F, Philamlife Tower Bldg,
8767 Paseo de Roxas Street, Makati City 1226

Fax No: 830-4404
Email Address: HR.Manila@navitaire.com
(Text form only. Please indicate code as email subject.)
Visit our website at www.navitaire.com

Note: Applicants with complete requirements will be given priority. We will respond only to qualified applicants.

Technology that liberates

Max's

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING OFFICERS

- ☐ Male/Female, college graduates, with above average communication skills and are computer literate;
- ☐ Have solid experience in restaurant operations training (dining, kitchen,housekeeping);
- ☐ Must be flexible, objective, and dynamic.

RECRUITMENT OFFICERS

- ☐ Male/Female, Psychology graduates, with solid experience in recruitment for all levels of the organization;
- ☐ Exposure in restaurant/service industry setting an advantage;
- ☐ Must be organized, innovative, and dynamic.

STORE MARKETING OFFICERS

- ☐ Male/Female, graduates of marketing or any related courses and are computer literate;
- ☐ Have solid experience in LSM (from conceptualization to post evaluation);
- ☐ Must have above average communications and interpersonal skills.

BANQUET AND SALES COORDINATORS

- ☐ Male/Female, college graduates, preferably of HRM, Tourism, PR, Business Administration, Mass Communication, Marketing, and other related courses;
- ☐ Must have a pleasant personality and above average English communication skills.

Interested applicants may send their resumés, photocopy of transcript of records and ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Max's Scout Tuazon Branch
21 Sct. Tuazon St., Brgy. Laging Handa,
Quezon City
E-mail: hrd@maxschicken.com

ERRATUM

The company name, HONDA CARS ALABANG, which was listed as one of the participants in the Job Employment Expo 2003 published last Sunday, October 26, 2003 in the Job Market section should have been **HONDA CARS MAKATI, INC.** with the following branches: Honda Cars Makati, Honda Cars Pasig, Honda Cars Alabang and Honda Cars Shaw.

Our apologies.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

We are a nationwide forwarder and distributor of several brands of consumer goods in need of:

ACCOUNTANT

- Not more than 35 yrs. old
- Must be a CPA
- Male or Female
- Minimum of at least 3 yrs. experience in a manufacturing firm
- Articulate, hardworking, willing to work overtime
- Computer literate (MS Office application, Word, Excel)
- Salary commensurate to experience(s) and ability

Due to urgency of the requirements, please hand carry your application with comprehensive resumé with 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture, and a copy of Diploma/TOR starting on Monday, November 03:

OFFICE OF THE MANAGER
c/o Ms. Janice P. Sanchez
108 Sandoval Ave.,
Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City
(In front of Republic Asahi Glass Corp. Gate 3)
Tel# (02) 642-8532; 628-2653

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

PROMODIZER/ MERCHANDISER

- ☐ Female / 5'3" height & up; Male / 5'6" height & up; Single, 18 to 27 years old; At least 2nd year college; With pleasing personality/fair complexion; With or without experience

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- ☐ Grad. of Accountancy; experienced in general accounting; proficient in Windows and other accounting related computer

CLERK/SECRETARY/ TEL. OPTR./RECEPTIONIST

- ☐ Grad. or at least 2nd year college level of any course; experienced in clerical/secretarial course; proficient in MS Word, MS Excel and average typing speed.

DRIVERS

- ☐ RC 123; Male / 18 to 29 years old; At least high school graduate; With work related experience

SKILLED WORKERS:
(with working experience)

- ☐ Industrial Electrician; Ref. & Aircon Tech.; Mechanic

Please apply with your bio-data & picture at:

MARILAG BUSINESS & INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, INC.
M/F Francisco Gold Condo.
784 EDSA, Kamias, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-1872; 926-9872; 929-7270
email : bethmaringo@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

DAVID'S Day Spa

IS IN NEED OF :

DERMATOLOGISTS & ASSISTANT
SPA MANAGERS

- With sales experience
- Successful candidates will receive a competitive remuneration package and commissions
- Offers comprehensive training and a rewarding career in a high-class environment

Please come in business attire from Monday to Wednesday every week, from 9:00 - 11:30 am. Bring your comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture and other credentials to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DAVID'S SALON INC.
DSI Bldg., 1251 Cardona St., JP Rizal, Makati City

Be Part of Our Growing Team

STORE SUPERVISORS/OIC
- ✔ Male/Female; College Grad; 23-27 yrs old
- ✔ Computer Literate
- ✔ Possess strong leadership qualities
- ✔ Analytical; Responsible, Trustworthy
- ✔ At least one year experience in Retail/Sales

LIAISON OFFICERS/COLLECTORS
- ✔ Male/Female; 22-30 yrs old
- ✔ College Level
- ✔ Computer Literate; Preferably with 1-2 yrs experience
- ✔ Can work w/ a minimum supervision
- ✔ Can work full time; hardworking
- ✔ Diligent & Trustworthy

BICYCLE TECHNICIANS
- ✔ Male; 18-28 yrs old; single; College level
- ✔ Can work w/ a minimum supervision
- ✔ Can work full time; hardworking;
- ✔ Diligent; Trustworthy; A Team player
- ✔ Has a Pleasing Personality
- ✔ Experience in sales is a plus
- ✔ Experience in assembling bike is a must

DRIVERS
- ✔ Male; 25-35 yrs old
- ✔ At least 2nd yr college
- ✔ Preferably w/ 2 yrs experience
- ✔ Can work full time; hardworking
- ✔ Reliable & Trustworthy
- ✔ With Professional Driver's License

OFFICE ASSISTANTS
- ✔ Male/Female; 21-25 yrs old;
- ✔ College Grad; preferably Psycho. Grad
- ✔ Computer Literate;
- ✔ Creative Thinker & Results Oriented

SALES LADIES/SALES MEN
- ✔ Male/Female; 20-28 yrs old
- ✔ College Level
- ✔ At least 5'2" in height
- ✔ Experience in sales is a plus
- ✔ Can work w/ a minimum supervision
- ✔ Can work full time; hardworking & trustworthy
- ✔ Has a Pleasing Personality

CASHIERS
- ✔ Female; 18-28 yrs old; College Level
- ✔ Experience in sales & cashiering is a plus
- ✔ Can work w/ a minimum supervision
- ✔ Can work full time; hardworking & trustworthy
- ✔ Has a Pleasing Personality

DELIVERY HELPERS/ WAREHOUSE HELPERS
- ✔ Male; 21-26 yrs old
- ✔ At least 2nd yr college
- ✔ Preferably w/ experience
- ✔ Can work full time; hardworking
- ✔ Reallable & Trustworthy

Send your resumé with recent 2x2 colored picture Not later than November 30, 2003 to:

CYCLE SHACK

CONLE MARKETING CORPORATION
 # 13 Bldg. A, Lower GF SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City 4103
Or email us at cycleshack_hrd@yahoo.com

'I am tired of training employees'

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM a branch manager in one of the unibanks in the country. I have a strong development orientation. I make sure that employees are motivated, inspired and developed in their work. I also explore opportunities for them to train, taking turns attending corporate programs. Since I manage a big branch in a key location with major clients and transactions, I am given by our corporate recruitment office priority, in terms of manpower requirements. They give me the best and brightest. Unfortunately, the best and the brightest do not stay. They stay one or two years and they leave for the proverbial "greener pastures."

I have proposed to our Corporate Human Resources Vice President, that instead of training new employees, who will undergo the time consuming officers training program, we hire older, experienced and more knowledgeable people who have been downsized in other banks. She objected to my suggestion because she thinks that these people may have bad habits that would be difficult to change.

I am tired of training and nurturing people. I blame myself when new employees leave the bank. But I also realize that there are other jobs like those in call centers that offer better compensation than the starting salary in banks. What else can I do to retain the employees we need in the branch? What competencies do I need to acquire to be a better manager? Can you do one-on-one mentoring with me? I really want to do a good job.

Perfectionist

Congratulations for your strong development orientation—both for your people and yourself. Ask yourself why you need to develop people. You may say the answer is obvious. Trained people work better and carry more of the load needed in the branch. However, you may need to have a higher reason for developing people that go beyond the utilitarian and functional.

A noble mission

I think training and developing people is a noble mission. Nothing is more gratifying than helping a person attain his full potential. In my mind, it can be equivalent to a "work of mercy" or food given to the poor. In today's information age, competency creates competitive advantage for both individuals and companies. Therefore, any chance a person can get to acquire new skills and knowledge is enhancing his human capital. In my view, when we develop people, we have to take a transcendent view.

Recently, we had a reunion of former officemates of the Regional Operations Division of the former NMPC. We felt good getting together, sharing how we have moved forward from those days. We worked hard. We enjoyed the adventure of building the organization together. We were young then, full of energy. We worked as empowered teams with minimal resources.

People remember

What impressed me most in the sharing of memories was how a simple act of kindness or gesture is never lost but is always remembered. People recalled the training seminar given to them years ago.

When we inspire, motivate and develop people, these acts have ripple effects. An individual gains value and perspective that he then passes on to his/her children or to others. For example, our messenger then recounted to us how he has inculcated in his children the positive work attitude that he acquired. One of his children graduated cum laude in accountancy and is now gainfully employed.

Wider community

It doesn't matter if a person stays only for a short time with us. The challenge is to ask if you have made a difference in that person's development.

If a person resigns and moves on to a better job or career, our normal tendency is to be sad, even feel betrayed. But we have to think of a wider community beyond our companies.

Let us think in terms of the happiness of the person and the contribution we have made to society. Let us also rejoice because someone can contribute better in forming his family and indirectly developing our nation. Let us not get tired training and developing others.

Employee profile

But you might say, there are pragmatic considerations, like your own branch objectives. I also support better and improved manpower planning. Here's what you can do. Together with your corporate human resources head, develop a profile of employees likely to stay. You can review your historical attrition records. In our experience, employees who are conscientious and likely to stay are those who come from middle class families who studied in B schools. The best and brightest who may come from the best schools may not necessarily have the patience to tolerate the sometimes repetitive nature of branch work. With a profile, you can do a better matching between applicants and your vacancies.

Then, your suggestion to hire people downsized in other banks is right. Not all of them have "bad habits" as claimed. I have handled several change and care projects of companies doing rightsizing. Many of those who volunteer to go and even those let go are very talented. In fact, we have found "gems" whom we have invited to join our company. They turned out to become excellent consultants. Effective interviewing will allow you to identify those with potential versus those with "bad habits." I remember a messenger who left us years ago after being assessed a poor performer. After experiencing how tough things are in other companies, he applied in our company again. We accepted him back and since then, he has been giving us outstanding performance.

Yes, I can provide one-on-one mentoring for you. Let us meet. After a leadership diagnosis, we can determine together the actions you can take to further improve your people skills. Meantime, continue to invest in people development.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through email to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

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ATMAK CORPORATION, a Japanese company engages in Manufacture/ Fabrication of High Performance Engineered Plastics and Steel/Aluminum products for Pharmaceutical, Electronics, and Industrial applications is in need of qualified

PRODUCTION ENGINEERS/SUPERVISORS
CAD MECHANICAL DESIGNER

for our product expansion in Rosario, Cavite.

We are looking for:

- A graduate of any engineering course, no more than 30 years old and with (3) years minimum work experience in related field
- With extensive exposure to supervisory work, and personally well-organized
- An individual of high personal standards of work performance. Not satisfied with average performance
- A hardworking individual that maintains stability under pressure or opposition, and sustains effectiveness in the face of disappointment or rejection

We are an equal opportunity employer that recognizes the value of a diverse workforce, and we support a drug-free workplace. We offer a highly competitive salary, generous benefits and a dynamic, teamwork oriented technical environment. For immediate consideration, please forward your current resumé with 2X2 photo, including salary history, transcript of records and other supporting documents, to:

ATMAK CORPORATION
Phase 4, Block 18, Lots 1 & 3
Cavite Economic Zone
Rosario, Cavite
E-mail Address: atmak-corp@pacific.net.ph

no later than 10th of November 2003. Schedule of interview and exam for qualified applicants is on November 17 - 19, 2003.

Philippine Bobbin Corporation (PBC), a tobacco-processing company, located in EPZA (Cavite), needs to employ a:

PRODUCTION HEAD SUPERVISOR

Duties:

- ✔ To acquire a perfect knowledge of the range of products (specifications, dies, tobacco yield, ...)
- ✔ To ensure the effective implementation of production plans and to optimize the adequacy between inventories, machines and manpower
- ✔ To supervise a manpower of 120+ operators and 10+ supervisors and to draw their attention on new yield and/ or quality matters

Skilled required:

- ✔ Engineering Graduate (pref. Industrial)
- ✔ At least 2 years supervisory experience in manufacturing activity
- ✔ Knowledge in Production Planning, Inventory Management and HR Management
- ✔ Leadership, responsibility, autonomy, sense of initiative and team spirit
- ✔ 25-30 years old / Computer literate

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive bio-data thru e-mail (esuralta@philbobbin.ph) or thru mail at Philippine Bobbin Corporation, EPZA, Phase II, Rosario, Cavite.

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

A multinational company, engaged in manufacturing & packaging of cosmetics products is in need of dynamic, aggressive & result oriented people to fill in the following positions:

PLANT MANAGER*
- College Grad or w/ Masteral Degree
- With at least 1-2 yrs. exp. in operations or its equivalent
- Must have very good managerial skills

HEAD MAINTENANCE*
- Grad of any Technical or Engg. course
- With at least 1 yr. experience in handling of plant machineries & equipment

QA ASSISTANTS*
- Grad of BS Chem., BS Chem'l Engg. or Licensed Pharmacist

Additional qualifications for the above positions:
* Proficient in Microsoft Windows
Must be technical and analytical
Must be willing to work long hours & to be assigned outside Mla.
Must be very organized
Must be good in written & oral communications

Interested parties may apply in person or may send their resumé with credentials at 271 T. Santiago St., Vicente Reales, Malanday, Valenzuela City
or email to ipic@pacific.net.ph

DAGUPAN ELECTRIC CORPORATION

Our company, the largest and the only privately-owned and managed electric distribution company in Pangasinan, is built on the solid foundation of Service, Excellence and Integrity. We are looking for young, innovative and resourceful individuals to join our team as:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- *A graduate of any 4-year course*
- *Computer literate*
- *With at least 3 years related work experience*
- *Dynamic and able to carry out multi-tasks*
- *With excellent oral and written communication skills*
- *With good public relations skills*
- *Can work with minimum supervision*
- *With high integrity and strong work ethics*
- *With high tolerance for stress*
- *Quezon City based*

ANALYST/ PROGRAMMER
- *With experience in developing applications and databases in a Unix, BSD, or Linux environment*
- *With experience in system administration in a Unix, BSD, or Linux environment*
- *With good mathematical, analytical, written, and verbal communication ability*
- *Quezon City or Dagupan City based*

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- *A graduate of BS Accountancy*
- *With at least 2 years experience in general accounting*
- *Computer literate*
- *With excellent verbal and written communication skills*
- *Can work with minimum supervision*
- *Willing to travel*
- *Quezon City based*

CADET ENGINEERS
- *Registered Electrical Engineer*
- *Computer Literate*
- *With good scholastic record*
- *Knows how to drive and with a valid driver's license*
- *Preferably from Pangasinan or nearby provinces*

If you possess the above qualifications, please send your application letter, resume, transcript of records and 2x2 picture on or before November 15, 2003 to:

THE HR MANAGER
Dagupan Electric Corporation
Ali Fernandez West,
Dagupan City 2400

Email Address:
decorp-hrd@pobox.net

A MULTINATIONAL FILIPINO-JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IS URGENTLY IN NEED OF:

PLANNING/SCHEDULING ENGINEER

- Male/Female, not over 35 years old
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- At least three (3) years experience in planning and scheduling in a vertical construction
- Computer literate and with expertise in Primavera P3 and MS Project
- Analytical, particular with details and can work long hours.

Hand carry your curriculum vitae with detailed job descriptions, certificates of previous and present employment, school credentials and recent 2x2 colored pictures to:

SUMMA KUMAGAI INC.-KUMAGAI GUMI JOINT VENTURE
Meralco Compound, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City
(beside Meralco Foundation, Inc.)

WANTED

SKILLED ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Must be:
- Accounting Graduate, 25-35 years old
- living within Marikina, Pasig, Cogeo, or Antipolo area
- willing to travel through public transportation during field works

Please submit your resumé and ID picture personally at:

#1 1st ST., VIRGINIA SUMMERVILLE SUBDIVISION
PHASE I, MAMBUGAN, ANTIPOLO CITY
TEL. NO. 682-7168; 682-7172

We are a Manufacturing Company of consumer products with nationwide distribution and belonging to the Top 1000 Corp. We have vacancies for:

MARKETING ASSISTANT / BRAND ASSISTANT
- Male or Female
- Not more than 30 years old
- BSC Graduate major in Marketing
- Must have good scholastic record
- Must be proficient in oral & written communication skills
- Must be honest, trustworthy & diligent

SALES SUPERVISOR
- Male or Female
- Not more than 35 years old
- Must have good personality
- BSC Graduate major in Marketing or related course
- Preferably with experience in sales of consumer products
- Must have good scholastic record
- Must be proficient in oral & written communication skills
- Must be honest, trustworthy & diligent

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
- Male or Female
- Not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of business or related course
- With good scholastic record
- Must have good personality
- Must be honest, trustworthy & diligent
- Must be willing to do field work

Please send resumé, transcript of records & passport size photo to:

P.O. BOX NO. 12940, Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City

JOB Market OVERSEAS

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☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

A CAREER WITH MAGSAYSAY AWAITS YOU...

MAGSAYSAY MARITIME CORPORATION is a prestigious company engaged in Ship Owning, Ship Management, Training and Crew Manning Operations offering fulfilling careers on board international cargo and luxury cruise ships.

Below are some of our openings:

For Luxury Cruise Ships:

- Cooks (all Levels)
- Masseuse
- Beauticians
- Bartenders
- Waiters/Waitresses
- Restaurant Stewardess
- Galley and Hotel Utility
- Hotel Staff Apprentice
- Cabin Stewards/Stewardesses
- Bar Waiters/Waitresses
- Bar Boys
- Laundrymen

For Navigation – Cargo Ships:

- Masters
- Chief Mates
- Second Mates
- Chief Engineers
- First Asst. Engineers
- Second Engineers
- Chief Cooks
- Electricians

Applicants for cargo ship positions must have at least 12 months shipboard experience onboard oil or chemical tankers in the position they are applying for. Applicants for luxury cruise ship positions must have at least 6 months work experience in 3-5 star hotels or fine dining restaurants except for Hotel Staff Apprentice which do not require any work experience but should be HRM or Tourism graduates. Please indicate accurate height measurement in your resumé. Interested applicants may fill-up our online application form in our website: www.magsaysay.com.ph and apply at:

RECRUITMENT CENTER
Main Office: 520 T.M. Kalaw St. Ermita, Manila
Cebu Office: 108 F. Ramos St., Cebu City
Davao Office: 49 Palma Gil St., Davao City
Accreditation #: 23538-1, 23015-10, 24454-1, 23949-2, 22593-3
MMI-0S-162-2B-111594/R-MLI-OS-145-SB-10394-R

For applicants who need to take personality development and skills upgrading courses, you may take any of the following at:

MAGSAYSAY TRAINING CENTER

- DINING ROOM STEWARD COURSE
- HOUSEKEEPING STEWARD COURSE
- BAR STEWARD COURSE
- GALLEY STEWARD COURSE
- RESTAURANT SERVICE TRAINING
- HOUSEKEEPING SERVICE TRAINING
- GALLEY SERVICE TRAINING
- SHIPBOARD FAMILIARIZATION/ BASIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- FRONT OFFICE SERVICE TRAINING
- GENERAL UTILITY COURSE
- FOREIGN LANGUAGES

For schedule of training, please inquire at:

Hospitality Services and Culinary Arts Department
2nd Floor, Shipping Center Building
A. Soriano Jr. St., Intramuros, Manila
Tel. Nos.: (632) 527-7268, 527-6160, 528-1627, 528-0142
E-mail: mtc-hsca@magsaysay.com.ph

For *NURSES* and other *ALLIED MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS*, train with the *EXPERTS*.
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For schedule of classes, please inquire at:

MAGSAYSAY GLOBAL SERVICES, INC.
2nd Floor, Shipping Center Building
A. Soriano Jr. St., Intramuros, Manila
Tel. Nos.: (632) 527-7268, 527-6160, 528-1627, 528-0142
E-mail: magsaysayglobal@magsaysay.com.ph

IPAMS INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL and MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. (IPAMS) is a pioneering Philippine consulting firm which provides professional counsel and assistance in labor relations, personnel management, and overseas and local manpower recruitment. IPAMS was conceived in 1971 and incorporated in 1972 by a group of professionals in the labor relations and personnel management fields. The experience, knowledge and understanding of these professionals about the recruitment business in the Philippines have been the most valuable resource of IPAMS. We are in constant search for YOUNG and DYNAMIC CANDIDATES for our following principals:

KSA, UAE, BRUNEI & WEST AFRICA OPENINGS

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Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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YOUNG AND DYNAMIC FEMALE CANDIDATES, AGED BETWEEN 21-30 YEARS OLD, SINGLE, WITH MINIMUM HEIGHT OF 5'2" WEIGHT IN PROPORTION TO HEIGHT ABLE TO SWIM AND POSSESS OUTGOING PERSONALITY. EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN VERBAL AND WRITTEN ENGLISH. FLUENCY IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE IS AN ADVANTAGE PREVIOUS AIRLINE, HOTEL OR CUSTOMER SERVICE BACKGROUND REQUIRED

SPA MANAGER / AESTHETICIANS
SPA TECHNICIANS / ASSISTANTS
MINIMUM THREE (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN SPA TREATMENT JOB GIVING FULL RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO GUESTS ENSURING THAT VARIOUS SAFE HEALTH, BEAUTY, SPA AND RELAXATION TREATMENTS ARE PROVIDED MUST BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND WILLING TO LIVE ON SITE AT THE RESORT. CAN WORK EFFECTIVELY & HARMONIOUSLY WITH A MULTI-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT.

CHEF-DE-PARTIE
RESTAURANT SUPERVISORS
MINIMUM THREE (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE HOTEL OR PROMINENT RESTAURANTS WITH FINE DINING SET-UP. CANDIDATES MUST BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND BE ABLE TO LIVE ON SITE AT THE RESORT. CAN WORK EFFECTIVELY & HARMONIOUSLY IN A MULTI-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT.

• MICHEL CHALHOUB TRADING •
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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YOUNG, DYNAMIC, CREATIVE INDIVIDUAL PREFERABLY MALE (CONSIDERING REGIONS COVERED) AGED BETWEEN 26-35 YEARS OLD. CREATIVE BACKGROUND IS CRUCIAL WITH 2-3 YEARS MERCHANDISING EXPERIENCE. SENIOR VISUAL MERCHANDISER MUST POSSESS RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AS A SUPERVISOR

• PETROKON UTAMA SDN. BHD. •
Brunei Darussalam

LEAD MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
INSTRUMENT DESIGNERS
ENGINEERING GRADUATES WITH EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND IN THE OFFSHORE OR ONSHORE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY. COMPUTER LITERATE AND ADEPT IN VARIOUS EQUIPMENT, PROCESS AND PROCEDURES AS WELL AS RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND CODES IN THE OIL & GAS OPERATIONS

• HEMPEL PAINTS (KSA) •
Dammam, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

ISO COORDINATORS
R & D CHEMISTS / PAINT TINTERS
CANDIDATES MUST HAVE RELATED COURSES OR EQUIVALENT TRAINING, WITH AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE PAINT MANUFACTURING COMPANY OR RELATED FIELDS. CAN SPEAK AND WRITE ENGLISH ADEQUATELY. ISO COORDINATORS & CHEMISTS MUST BE ADEPT IN THE USE OF COMPUTERS

• SAUDI ARABIAN MINING COMPANY •
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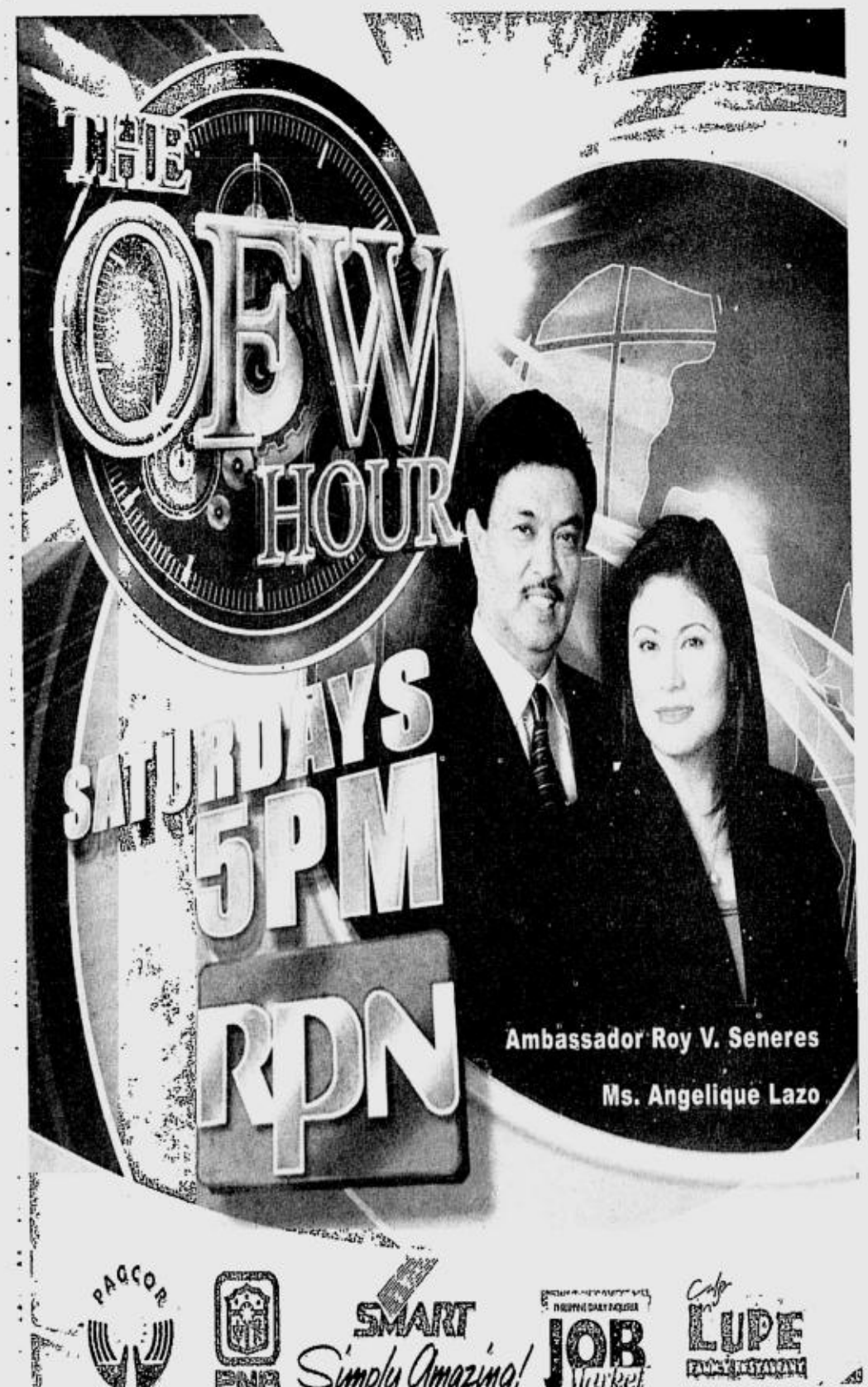

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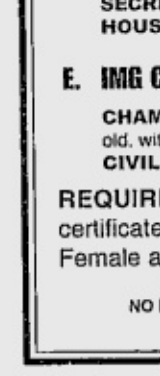

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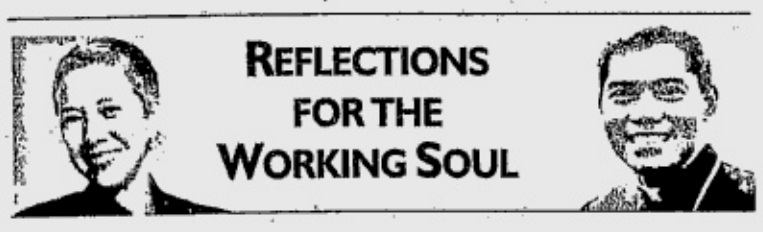
SundayPEOPLEatWORK

Contributing Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

Working to death



By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

ONE particular ill afflicting modern man is the work-to-death syndrome. A GM of a multinational company, for example, worked so hard to earn millions he would later pay his hospital bills with—he died broke, leaving his family in debt. An admired and success-driven real estate agent was consistently awarded for being tops in her field, and only when dying, unhappily single at 65, did she ask herself: what's the use of owning ten condominiums and not having one true friend?

What's so evil about "working to death?" Isn't hard work supposed to make our life worth living? Isn't it supposed to save us, being the antidote to the evil that idleness spawns?

Hard work can be either creative or destructive. When we "work to death," we could be digging our own graves. That is when we work and work to fill our elemental needs and forget that we are not just bodies or egos craving to be cared for. Even many of those who are supposed to be "doing God's work" admit that they are not exempt from this malady: they can get so hung up "doing the work of the Lord" that they totally forget to praise "the Lord of the work"—they neglect their prayer life and eventually end up like any careerist succumbing to the lure of worldly success.

Only when hard work is performed as a stepping-stone to a life after this life may it be regarded as creative. Such is the work style that allows us to meet those needs our paychecks can never satisfy, like friendship, simple charity or the disinterested love of one's neighbor, and relating with the divine as a child would with a loving parent. Without meeting those needs, hard work is but a life term to be served between the cradle and the grave. *(Email the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph*)*

John 11: 19-27

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

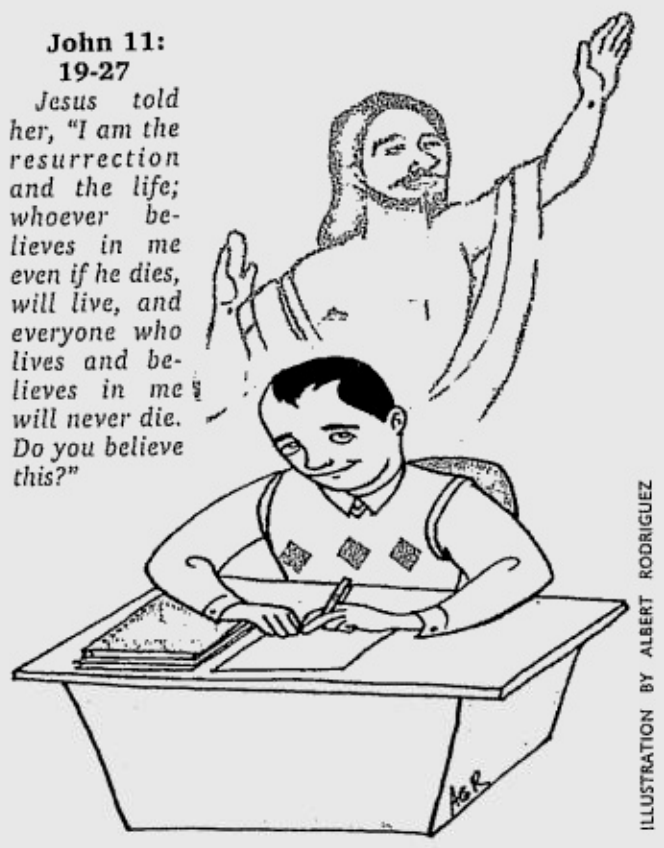


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Dying to live

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

TODAY'S traditional All Souls Day celebration causes work to stop and brings families and friends to the cemetery to remember and pray for the deceased loved ones. However, one could see fewer prayer services and more merrymaking on this supposedly "holy" day. One wonders whether people distract themselves with entertainment, food or simply gossip in order not to think about death, or their rejoicing springs from a strong belief in Jesus' words that "everyone who lives and believes in Him will never die." Whatever it is, the fact remains that everyone dies—our human existence in this world ends.

Whether you are a manager or a simple laborer, whether your salary is just the minimum wage or a six-digit figure, we all die. Death, they say, is the great equalizer for all men in this world. Great men and nobodies die all the same.

I just recently had the privilege of celebrating Mass together with some bishops in the tomb of St. Peter, the Apostle and the tombs of the Popes in the Vatican. Peter, a fisherman who because of his faith in Jesus was given the "keys of the kingdom of heaven," died. All those Popes, anointed men and men of power, died. Even Jesus Himself, the Son of God made man, suffered and died. However, the death of Jesus, the Savior of the world, was different—it transformed the death of a believer into a source of life!

What then is the value of working so hard and righteously when after all we die? Paraphrasing Jesus' words, "whoever works in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who works and believes in me will never die." If we work this way, we can rejoice at our death! *(Email the author at* mfv@skyinet.net*)*

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Should you thank your boss for firing you?

By Ernie O. Cecilia

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

DO you realize that some misfortunes are really blessings? Yes, blessings come often in disguise. So, when your boss fires you, should you curse or thank him?

If you do the following, you can turn your job loss into an opportunity for growth for which you will be thankful.

• **Accept reality.** Many people who are given walking papers spend more time getting angry and feeling insecure or helpless than getting ready for a new life. Accept the reality that in your career, there will come a day when you will clearly "see the bullet leave the barrel of the gun and know that it will hit you, and there's nothing you can do." There's nothing you can do with the gun or the bullet, but there's a lot you can do with your life. Realize that your dependency for a fixed income is over. You have to fend for yourself.

Real life case: Robert was unfazed when his position as Logistics Manager was declared redundant. Instead of getting mad, he thought that the redundancy was a blessing in disguise. He got a sizeable separation pay and wasted no time in putting up his own logistics consulting firm.

• **Take stock of what you have.** Find out how long your last paycheck will last you, how much savings you have, what family obligations are outstanding, and how long you can last without an income. Do a serious assessment of your assets and liabilities, financial and otherwise.

Real life case: Jun had a company mortgage on his house when he was laid off. He negotiated with a bank to refinance his house then wisely used his separation pay to start a small family business. Now, his small business sends his kids to school and pays for his mortgage. He is also his own boss.

• **Go back to your old dreams** – what you really wanted to do in life – and see if you can make money out of your passion. What makes you happy? From that passion, can you create value you can part with to get value in return? It does not take a genius to understand why the more successful people are those that are most happy with what they are doing. Your passion might be trivial to you, but in this strange age, even fish balls can be a big franchise.

Real life case: Jane was a PR Manager before she realized that her childhood dream was to make people beautiful and happy, while they give her their money. She has a passion for beauty, but entrepreneurship is Greek to her. So, she joined the long list of 180 franchisees of a popular beauty salon. Today, as an accidental entrepreneur, she makes much more money than she did when she was doing PR work for her employer.

• **Check your network.** See if you have friends who can help—finance, refer, or even join you in a business undertaking. Check your contacts while you were active in the corporate world—find out their needs that could be outsourced. Start by "looking for a need and filling it, before others do." (Incidentally, this simple formula is the secret of tycoons.) The good news is that there is a market today, since outsourcing is going to be the default position for companies wanting to be competitive. The bad news is that there are giant outsourcing firms you will have to compete with.

Real life case: Sandy was Compensation Manager in a large conglomerate. When she opted for early retirement, she and her friends in the profession started a small consulting firm. Of course, her first client was her former employer. Today, her local firm is giving the global giants a run for their money.

• **Organize, and then mobilize.** If you want to be in business, organize yourself, your time and your resources. There's nothing wrong with using other people's brains, if you think yours is not enough. Get other friends to join you or you can join friends who are similarly situated and who are exploring similar business ventures. You can't afford to let time pass by without any positive result happening. Organize and mobilize for results, before time runs out.

Real life case: Jess was IT Manager for a large manufacturer. The company decided to rationalize its supply chain and had to resort to regional sourcing.. Jess was among the hundreds laid off. He got his programmers to join him and set up an independent IT firm. They developed software for smaller companies, and in no time, Jess was making thrice his paycheck at his former employer.

Truly, retrenchment or early retirement is not the end of the road. In fact, some see it as an opportunity rather than a problem. Just imagine how much more creative and decisive you can get in your own company, with your 15 or 20 years' experience in big business. Do you realize how much money you would have to pay for the training and experience you got while "enslaving" yourself for the longest time? You can prove that you can do better than your CEO, by being your own CEO.

But before you go and ask your boss to fire you, realize that being an entrepreneur is different from being an employee. As entrepreneur, you don't only have to work—you got to produce value that your customers are willing to pay for. Failing that, you'll starve to death!

(Mr. Cecilia is the President and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a business and human resources consulting firm. He is past president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. Send feedback to erniec@edsamail.com.ph*)*

How can you evaluate a job offer?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

DEAR WW: I'm going into my first job. I have two offers. The pay is better in one but I feel like there must be other things I should be looking at.

Follow the Money?

I was shocked recently to read that Fallingwater, the famous Frank Lloyd Wright home perched over a Pennsylvania stream, is slowly sliding down its hillside. Seems that for all of Mr. Wright's towering vision, he was notorious for overlooking homebuilding basics—like creating foundations that stayed put.

Many people—even experienced jobseekers—fall into the same trap when it comes to evaluating offers. They tend to focus on the salary and overlook other factors that can determine their long-term stability in the job.

Here are considerations to explore before you bet the house on that new job. For others, check out Mary Simon's book, "Negotiate Your Job Offer" (Wiley, 1998).

Total compensation. Follow the money, yes, but also look at the entire package. How comprehensive are the medical, dental, vision and retirement benefits? How flexible is the benefits package? Can it be tailored to your specific needs?

Quality of life. Are the benefits good? Well, what about the other stuff that has a big impact on your life? Things like: vacation policies, child and elder care benefits, telecommuting options, travel requirements or the expectation that you will relocate sometime in the future.

The boss. Meet your boss. Is she someone you want to work for? Will she "wear well" over time? What will she expect of you? How realistic are her time frames? How well does she communicate? How does she praise and reprimand? If possible, talk to several employees to multiple answers to these questions.

Coworkers. Meet your coworkers. Do you like them? Will they feel like comfortable jeans or like a hair shirt?

Resources. Sure, David got Goliath with a slingshot, but you want to go into battle with all the ammunition you need. What technical resources, cash, staff and other support will the company put behind you?

Career development. Chances are, this won't be your last job. Will the company help you advance? Will they give you tuition assistance? Access to training programs and conferences? Mentoring and coaching?

Company culture. You know how there are "type A" and "type B" people? Well, there are also "type A" and "type B" companies. Does this company's culture and expectations fit your personal style? Is the corporate culture one that you will thrive in?

Transition benefits. If a company's hot to have you, they should make it easy to say yes. Have they offered stock options? A signing bonus? A relocation package? Help for your spouse to land a job?

Frank Lloyd Wright didn't realize how prophetic the name Fallingwater would be when he built his landmark house. If you want to stay put for a while, make sure YOUR new job is built on a solid foundation.

Poll results

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: What is your top consideration when deciding if you'll accept a job offer?

—Chance to advance, 20.1%
—What I'll be doing, 24.2%
—What I'll be paid, 55.6%

Our winning strategy for considering a job offer comes from Harry N. in cyberspace. "The number one consideration—an employment contract! Most benefits are at the company's discretion. Don't make your decision on where you want to work based on benefits that may be taken away just when you need them. Vacation, flexible schedules, retirement plans, stock options ... can and are routinely removed by employers. In the day and age of downsizing and cost cutting, don't count on any benefits that are not: a) protected by law or b) spelled out explicitly in an employment contract."

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded. com and Retention Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
November 2, 2003

The Angst of Arno Sanidad

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

ARNO Sanidad never left the human rights scene of his activist days, only he now speaks a different jargon—the legalese of stuffy courthouses and the muted language spoken in darkened rooms where he hears confessions.

One of the private prosecutors in the celebrated Kuratong Baleleng case that involves former Philippine National Police Director-General, Senator and now presidential contender Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Sanidad is very much in the news these days, trying to disprove the saying that there is no justice in this world.

The case has taken up much of his time, but there are moments during the interview when Sanidad lets up on the bloody case to shift to another topic—the youth. "You know," he huffs, "the martial law years have wrought great damage on the young." He means the youth of today, not of that dreadful era.

In livid prose, he points out that the effects of martial law, which Ferdinand Marcos inflicted on this country 31 years ago in 1972 and which lasted 14 years until 1986, are still being felt now. One could see their manifestation in the present crop of young people who weren't even born then.

During the martial law years, Sanidad explains, a generation of future leaders was nipped in the bud, leaving today's young with few role models to emulate. He mentions names, the best and the brightest, the who-could-have-beens. But where are they now? Swallowed up, coopted, if not silenced or killed. There are survivors, daring to lead and make a dent, but they are few. There are not too many names in bright lights.

The undesirables who made hay then are still around, he complains, and those who left the scene to cool off are back, greying, balding, corrupt, greedy and despicable as ever.

Such are some of the sources of angst of Arno Sanidad, 49 years on this planet, lawyer, human rights advocate, street activist, keeper of bloody secrets, lover of the lady in the blindfold and more. His father named him after a river in Italy that flows from the Apennines through Florence to the Ligurian sea.

The details of how he got into the Kuratong Baleleng case, Sanidad cannot entirely reveal. Much of how it started may have been pure synchronicity. It was meant to land on his lap, he says.

There was a call in the night, a screaming tabloid headline that turned out to be a hot lead, trembling voices, dead bodies. The case soon took on a life of its own as characters emerged from the shadows and the ghosts of the dead called out for justice.

Sanidad plunged himself into it. That was in 1995. Thirteen people dead. Ten men, suspected to be members of a hold-up and kidnap-for-ransom group, were gunned down on that bright May 18 morning while they allegedly tried to shoot it out with law enforcers. That was the police version. Two women were later found dead, one stabbed,

To page 2

This leading human rights lawyer is out to prove that there is justice in the world. Yes, even for criminals considered unworthy of it, like the Kuratong Baleleng gang, for which he is lead counsel against their alleged executioner Sen. Panfilo Lacson

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Arno ...from page 1

Clockwise from top left: In his office full of books and Mao memorabilia; in the '70s, seated rightmost with (seated, left to right) Alex Padilla, Sen. Lorenzo Tañada carrying Lean Alejandro's daughter, (standing) Alejandro and Darwin Flores; his mug shot at age 17, a picture he got hold of only after 1986 (Rigoberto Tiglao was in the next cell); as a boy with father Pablo and older brother Pablito (standing)

the other shot. The dead were not saints and not a few people had described them as scum whose death should not be mourned by society.

Problem was, those killed were in fact in the hands of law enforcers, having been arrested and taken into custody the day before, as witnesses would later reveal.

A shootout or a rub-out? This is the issue that could make or unmake presidential contender Ping Lacson, who was then head of the Presidential Anti Crime Commission (PACC) under then vice president Joseph Estrada, now an ex-president behind bars facing plunder charges.

The case had been put on hold in 1998 during Estrada's term, when witnesses started to recant and disappear, muttering apologies. The case was resurrected a few months ago after a Supreme Court ruling. Something new turned up. The dead refuse to rest.

It is said that if there is one case Lacson is afraid of, this is it.

But Sanidad wants to take politics away from this. "This is not about Lacson," he says, loud and clear. "This is about law, justice and human rights." He adds: "Lacson was not even in politics when the quest for justice began. He now uses his political position in retroactive fashion as a pathetic foil." Sanidad leads the panel of private prosecutors from the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) that is handling the case for the families of the Kuratong Baleleng gang.

How could FLAG and the witnesses, Sanidad argues, have known in 1995 that Lacson would be a senator today and would aspire to be President? And, he adds, even if the case was politically motivated, this does not mean that the charges are false. No doubt this case will rock the election scenario or alter the political tide, but Sanidad couldn't care less.

Even before the martial law years, Sanidad was into causes, joining activists in the streets to denounce societal ills. He was then a high school student in San Beda College on Mendiola Street, the venue of many street protests and the gateway to the seat of power. Surprisingly, he recalls, their Benedictine mentors did not keep them confined within monastery walls, and he credits them for that. He also speaks of this activist monk who is now among the *desaparecidos*.

Sanidad went to the University of the Philippines for a bachelor's degree in Political Science. He was elected UP Manila's student council president in 1972. A member of the left-leaning Kabataang Makabayan, he couldn't have been safe for long. Military men swooped down on the Sanidad home one day and took him away along with his father, the former Congressman Pablo Sanidad of Ilocos Sur. He was about 17.

Among his fellow jailbirds was Rigoberto Tiglao, now Press Secretary of the Arroyo administration. Sanidad was released after a few months and made to take his "oath of allegiance" before then Constabulary chief (and future president) Fidel Ramos.

Sanidad remembers, "The TV news clip said, 'NPA surrenders and takes oath to New Society.'" He laughs at it now.

Sanidad went back to school, his activism undiminished. (His clandestine work he does not want written about.) After graduation, he took courses in Asian Studies until someone in the academe took note of him. He ought to be a lawyer, he was told. So off to law school he went.

He eschewed fraternities. "I would like to think that the activists were able to influence the frats," he muses, "not the other way around." He became a member of the Order of the Purple Feather (UP Law Honor Society).

Sanidad passed the bar in 1980. He was privileged to have worked closely with UP legal stalwart Perfecto Fernandez and later, as a human rights lawyer, with statesmen and legal luminaries Jose W. Diokno and Lorenzo Tañada. He served in church NGOs as well as labor groups. He joined Mabini, a group of die-hard human rights lawyers. He even found time to teach.

Sanidad was a visible figure during the 1987 peace talks between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front, serving as counsel for the latter. Even then, he couldn't pass up a court martial case, defending a military officer who blew the whistle on smuggling and exposed his superiors. In 1993, he was among those who worked for the acquittal of the so-called ISG-9, enlisted men wrongly accused of kidnapping.

Sanidad is with the Sanidad Abaya Te Viterbo Enriquez and Tan Law Firm. His group has spoken strongly against the death penalty. He was there when a condemned man, strapped to a gurney, breathed his last. Too late came the call for a stay in the execution. Sanidad exploded.

Although born into politics, Sanidad has no attraction to it. His father and eldest brother Pablito, also a lawyer, had been part of smoldering Ilocos politics, and before the Singsons, he says, it was the Sanidads that clashed with the powerful Crisologos.

His office is full of photos and memorabilia from his activist days and little reminders on tables and walls that justice must reign supreme. Sanidad remains unmarried. "I am not gay," he strongly declares with a laugh. He would neither confirm nor deny that there was this woman who was the love of his life.

He rues what's going on in this benighted land, and in his books are tales about heels and heroes, victims and victimizers, the brave and the unbrave, those who have made a difference and those whose names he speaks of with contempt.

On quiet nights when he is not listening to the voices of the unjustly damned, he reads books. His law partners he considers his close friends. "Truth has no best friend," he likes to say.

No politics for him, just justice and the law, even if this means clashing with titans. He loves to quote the words of an eminent man, US Supreme Court Justice J. Louis D. Brandeis: "In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously. Our government is the potent, the omnipotent teacher. For good or for ill, it teaches the whole people by its example. If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for the law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy."

That is the reason why.

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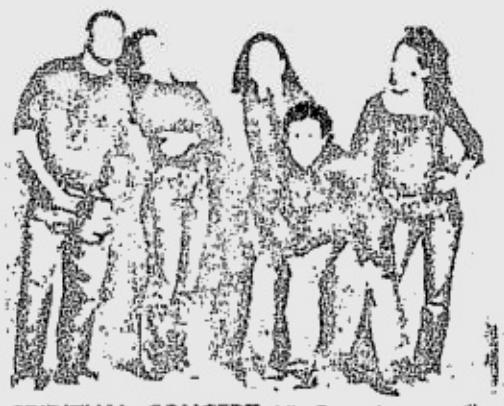


SPIRITUAL CONCERT ML Entertainment will stage "One," the sequel to the spiritual concert "One For the Soul," on Nov. 22 at the Folk Arts Theater featuring Verni Varga, Anna Fegi, Franco Laurel, Luke Mejares and Ayen Munji-Laurel, with the special participation of Paolo Santos. For inquiries, call 638-7776. *For more of This Week, see page 7 .*

Molino

I knew it was where sugar was
made, where liquid was pressed from stalks
cooked, crystallized into sweetness.
Somewhere, in the belly of that mill,
there was heat from hell as I
imagined it, and a spinning:
angry, primal, dangerous.
Outside, the smell of molasses
hung about town, it pressed against
bodies, we wore it on our clothes,
our hair, our wrists. On our driveway,
I would spin like the mill's machines
in the gray distance, spin and spin
furiously, my universe hanging on
to the tips of my thick braids,
fissioning fabulously beyond
my fingers, beyond our driveway
and the town's edge.
I was centrifugal, rolled into
a dizzying dynamo,
moving at the speed of days, past
sugarcane stalks growing in Papa's hands,
cut down by boys blackened by the sun,
loaded into dusty railcars,
wheeled off to feed the mill's mouth.
Years later, in Papa's car, I
would ride out of town for the last time,
the smokestacks' shadows barring
my back. I would ride out of there
pure white potent refined, like sugar.

J. Ana Fuentes Flores

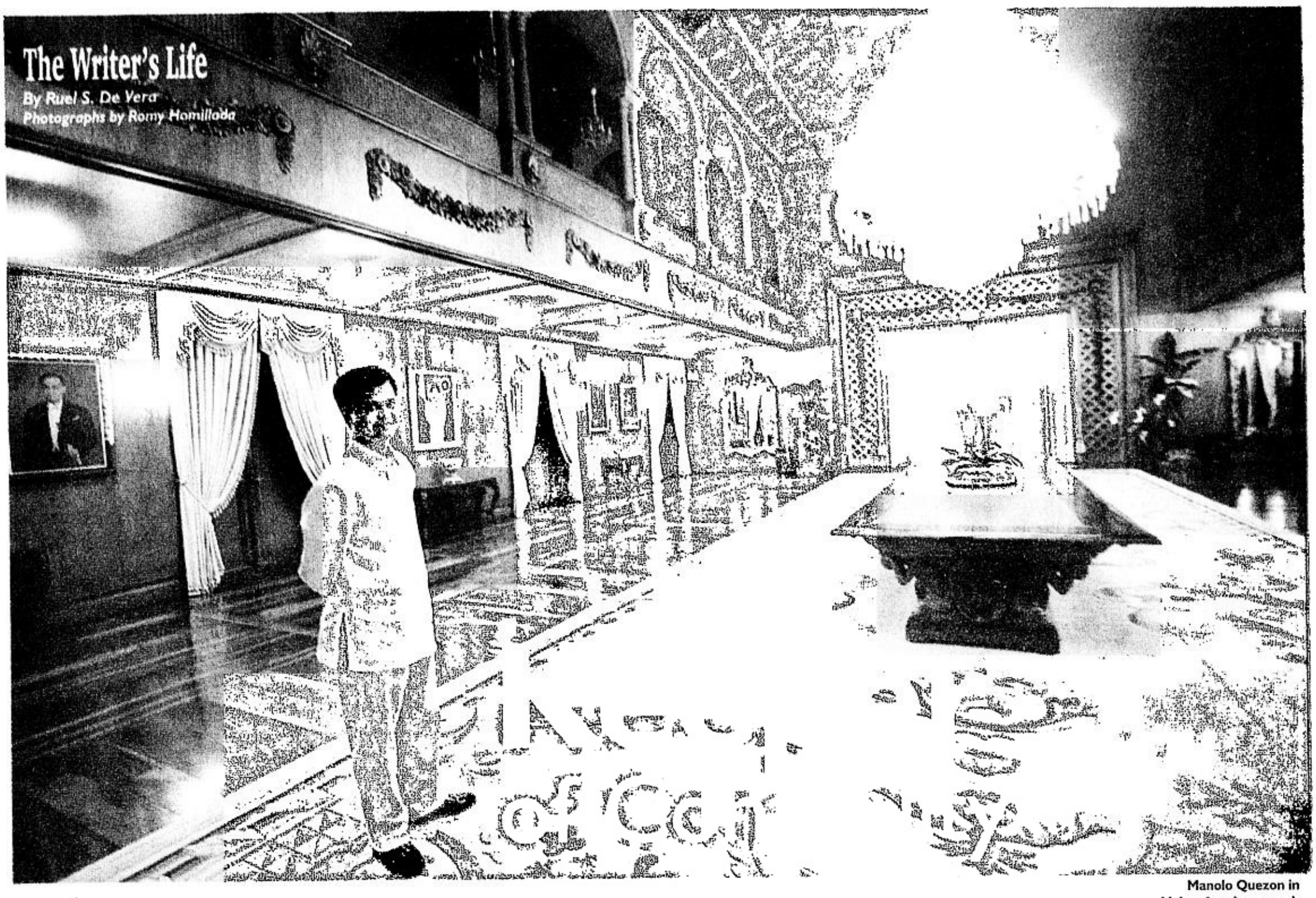
Bakwet

Dumagsa mula lungsod tungong nayon
silang sinanay lumakad nang tuwid.
Pinatag ang pilapil at pananim
ng metal na gulong at nag-uunahang
yabag na wari'y may hinahanap.
Nagkapaa't kamay ang mga halaman;
humakbang, gumapang at kinapkapan
ng gubat ang sarili. Nagka-armas
ang mga sanga at natutong bumuga
ng apoy. Naiwan ni Ina ang sinaing
at napatid ang aking tsinelas
nang kumaripas tungong silong.
Hindi lamang balbas ng may bihag
na Puti ang maaaring malagas.
Bagaman sila'y madulas, hindi
nakapangingilalang mata ang dulo
ng armalayt at kapag nanlisik
ay may nawawasak. Kahapon lamang
ay tumimbuwang ang kalabaw ni Ama.
Pupulutin nang panggatong ang kubo
na sa awa ng simoy nakapugal.
Kaya't hindi baleng isalalay
ang manipis na sikmura sa bilang
na de-lata at lugaw sa di namin bahay.
Di na namin hihintaying silipin
ng punglo ang aming bungo.
Isasakay na namin ang abang buhay
sa susunod na hakot.

Jose Jason L. Chancoco

The Writer's Life

By Ruel S. De Vera
Photographs by Romy Hamilloda



Manolo Quezon in Malacañang's spruced-up Kalayaan Hall

IT ISN'T easy being named after a Philippine president, even if you are that president's grandson. But for Manuel "Manolo" Quezon III, it's been a two-way street. "It's very typical—you spend the first half of your life running away from it ,and then you spend the next half coming to terms with it and realizing that it is as much a curse as an advantage." Now 33, Manolo has made a name for himself as an award-winning author, journalist and essayist. But he has recently been busy with something that connects him squarely with the history of the Philippine presidency itself.

No, he is not running in the coming May polls. Instead, he is now working full-time as part of the Office of the President as the Presidential Assistant for Historical Affairs.

As Manolo never met his grandfather (President Quezon passed away in New York state during the Second World War), his visions of Malacañang were shaped by the stories he heard from the older generation, particularly those of his late father, Manuel L. Quezon, Jr. A teacher of philosophy and a writer, Manolo's father lived in Malacañang for six years but, as Manolo puts it, "he was a famous recluse, the first presidential child to turn his back on politics."

As a child, Manolo recalls driving past Malacañang with his father. "I was a Martial Law baby and there were a couple of times when we'd try to sneak and drive past, because during those days Malacañang was off-limits. We'd peek through the gates and I'd listen to his stories about when he was growing up there." The Palace he saw he could only describe as a "closed-off fortress."

The grandson of a former president, Manolo Quezon is helping restore Malacañang to its proper historical place

He finally got to look at the Palace close up in 1986, when it was opened to the public after the Edsa revolt. With his father and Ruby Roxas, the daughter of the late president Manuel Roxas, a then 16-year-old Manolo noticed there was "a complete sense of shock on their part because this was the first time they had seen the Palace since Martial Law. They got lost, couldn't find rooms, couldn't place things because it had been rebuilt."

The return of a Quezon to Malacañang actually began more than a decade ago. Manolo explains that then-President Corazon Aquino had commissioned National Artist Nick Joaquin to write a book about the Palace. Joaquin came to interview Manolo's father, and Manolo sat in. "I realized that if you rely on the stories of the people who lived, there you're not going to learn much." When the book took a long time to publish, Manolo thought nothing was going to come of it.

So he did something on his own. "I felt a disconnection between the stories that the older generations take for granted and the stories we have of being cut off from this sense of continuity. The only way is to make it useful again is not to view it as a proprietary thing. The older generation takes it for granted, to make it useful for people of my age, you have to take it for granted that they know nothing."

In the coming years, he learned all he could about Malacañang. "It took me everywhere. It was going back to looking at reminiscences by older people and articles written long ago, sort of connecting the dots. If you study it as a place and as a building, it says so much about us." The journey back would be capped off by the launching of the Nick Joaquin book in the Palace itself last year.

Soon after, he received a fateful phone call: President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had read a review he had written about the book, and agreed with comments he made about the Palace. She was calling him in to help out. Beginning July last year, Manolo went to the Palace and began, as he says it, "figuring out how things used to be and merging it with the way things are."

In January, he received his formal appointment as a presidential assistant. He

To page 7

The old presidential office, now the Quezon room

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Text and photographs by Egay Montaña

9:30 a.m.: "Mr. X," an HIV/AIDS patient, speaks to a counselor at the Ecarma Wellness Center in Pililla, Rizal. "Mr. X" is part of an experimental control group in search of a cure

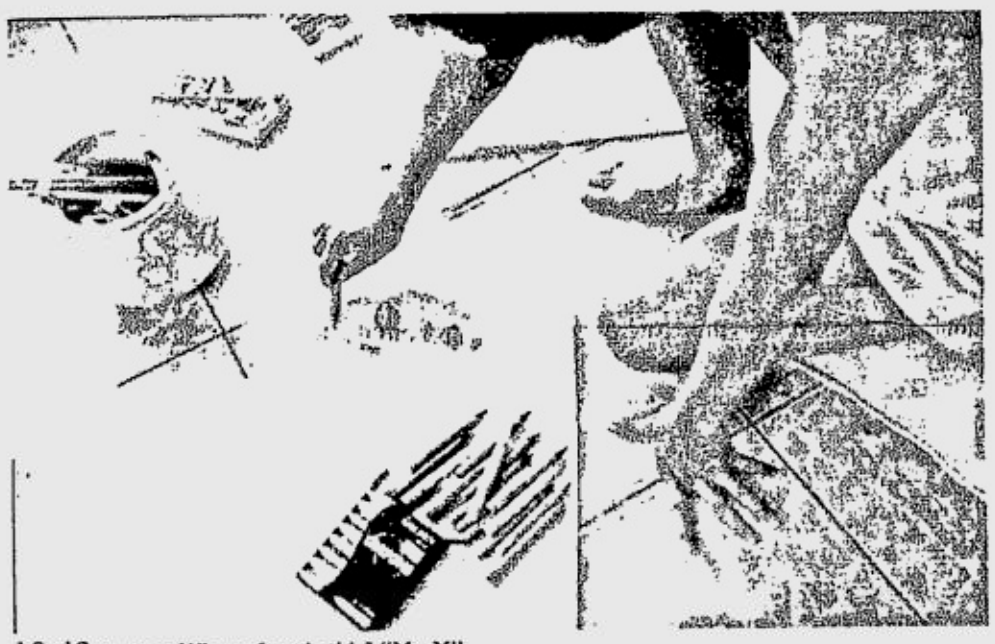
Overcoming stereotypes to get close to an AIDS victim

The Feared and the Afflicted

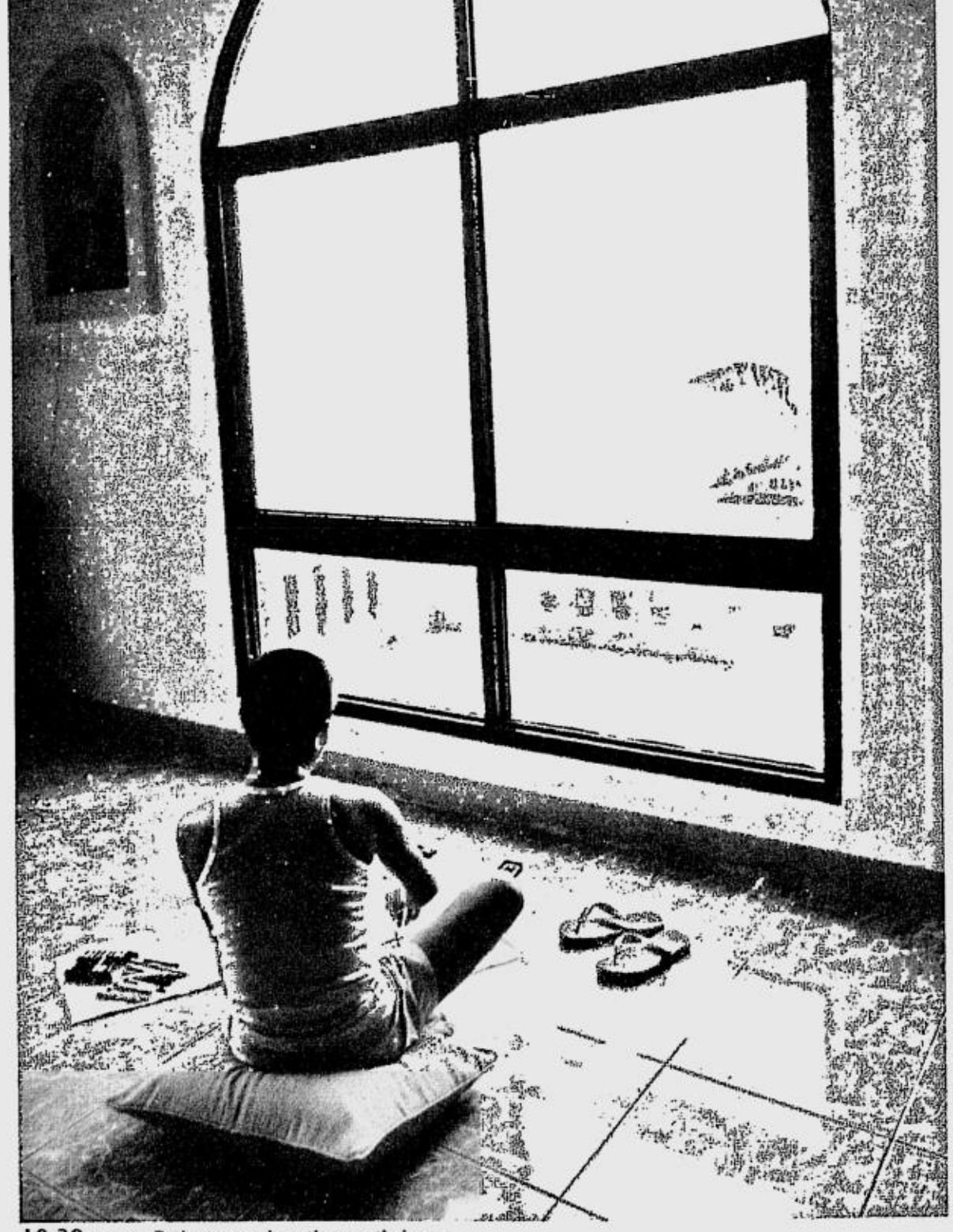
I THOUGHT it was a regular coverage when my editor sent me to Ecarma Wellness Center in Pililla, Rizal for a photo shoot. I had no idea what the coverage was all about until I was told that I would be taking photos of an AIDS patient for our Sunday magazine. I was shocked. It would be my first time to be in close contact with someone afflicted with the disease. For a while I was thinking of making up an excuse. But as a professional, I told myself that I should go.

My heart was pounding as I drove to Ecarma Wellness Center. I know how the HIV virus, which causes AIDS, is transmitted, but nevertheless I brought a bottle of alcohol and sanitizer—for protection.

After a brief introduction and a conversation with Mr. X, I began my work. As I clicked my camera, all the fear and tension went away. It was just another job for me. It went well, after all. I left the center and could only feel compassion for the patient.



10:40 a.m.: Whose face is this? "Mr. X" concentrates on an artwork, one of the few means of expression available to him

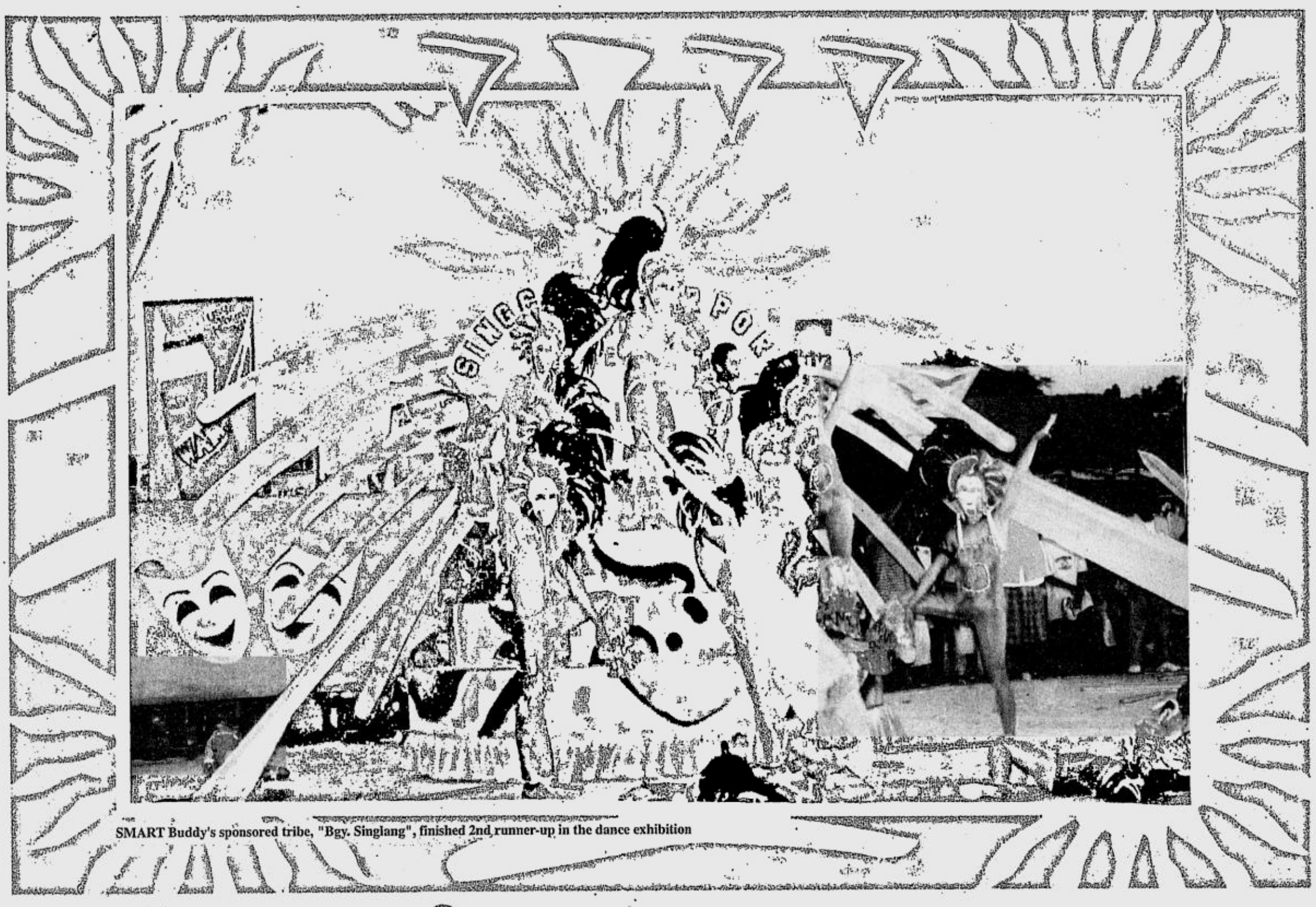


10:30 a.m.: Patients are given time on their own to engage in hobbies. Here, "Mr. X" takes crayons and paper in the light of the late morning sky

12 noon: Having a good meal for lunch. His body will need all the nutrition it can get

2 p.m.: Getting an affectionate pat on the head from a staffer on the way to the Wellness Center farm

5 p.m.: Near the end of the day, and on the way home to his quarters for rest



SMART Buddy's sponsored tribe, "Bgy. Singlang", finished 2nd runner-up in the dance exhibition

MASSKARA '03 SMART Unmasks the City of Smiles

SMART took to the buzzing avenues and nightspots of Bacolod City just recently for a 7-day party marathon to celebrate the 24th Masskara Festival. Celebrations began on October 13 and culminated the following weekend with a series of showy shindigs and impressive pyrotechnics. Planeloads and shiploads of tourists flocked to the Negros Occidental capital from all over the country to join SMART and the ever-smiling Negrenses and experience the electrifying ambiance that has made Masskara one of the most exhilarating fiestas our country has ever dreamed up.

SMART Parties in Bacolod

Highlights of the SMART Buddy events include performances by Kyla, Fuse Band, Joni Robles & Carol, Grupo Mari Teves, Passage and Freshmen. Needless to say, SMART Buddy spread its trademark Buddy Language like a happy virus everywhere they went, giving the City of Smiles even more to smile about. SMART subscribers were enabled to revel in the festivities even in Negros due to the nationwide coverage powered by the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2.

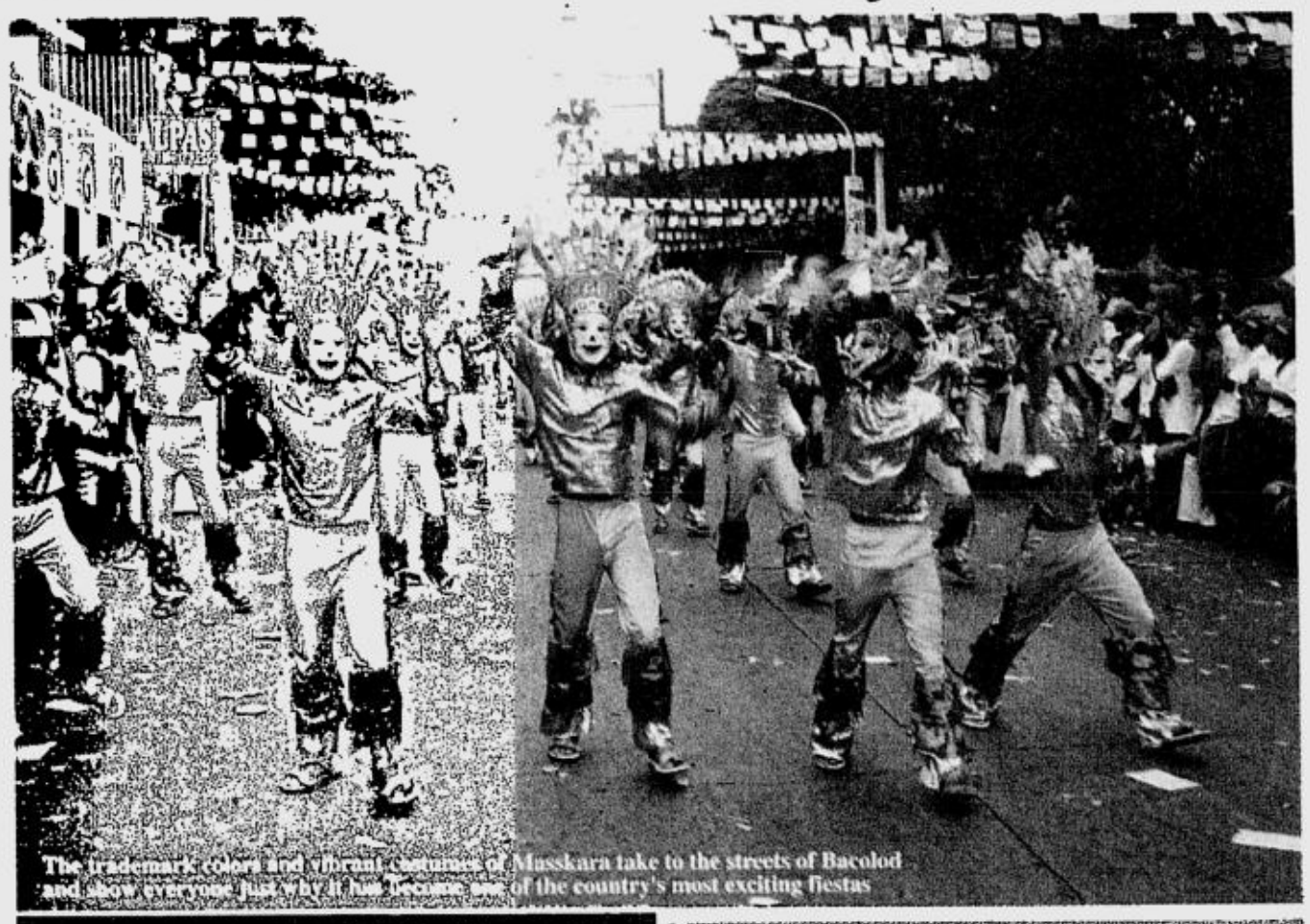
SMART Perks and Privileges

What's more, lucky SMART subscribers enjoyed perks that made them the envy of those not part of SMART's ever-growing 11 million and counting subscribers. There were free tickets to Kyla's concert for the first 30 SIM Swappers to the Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 at Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel. There was free beer for those who swapped their non-SMART SIM to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 at Entertainment Depot. And even a 10% discount on food & beverages at Quorum for SMART subscribers, who simply had to present their SMART SIM at the booth.

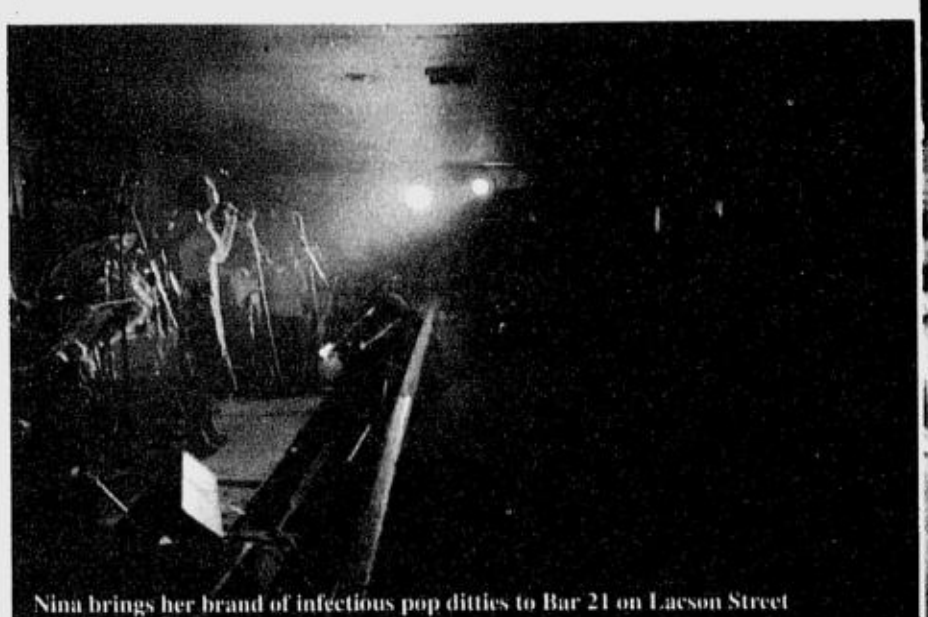
Till Next Year!

And as the week-long party wrapped up and the visitors went their separate ways, the cheers of the crowd and the drumbeats of the parade continued to resound throughout the city, leaving the locals delightfully dizzy... and happily hungover.

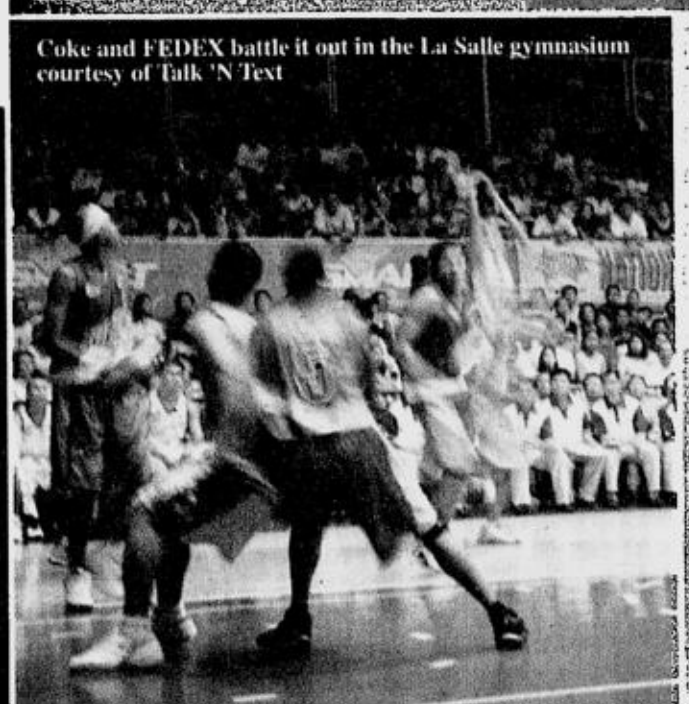
Te, asta sa sunod nga tuig!



The trademark colors and vibrant costumes of Masskara take to the streets of Bacolod and show everyone just why it has become one of the country's most exciting fiestas

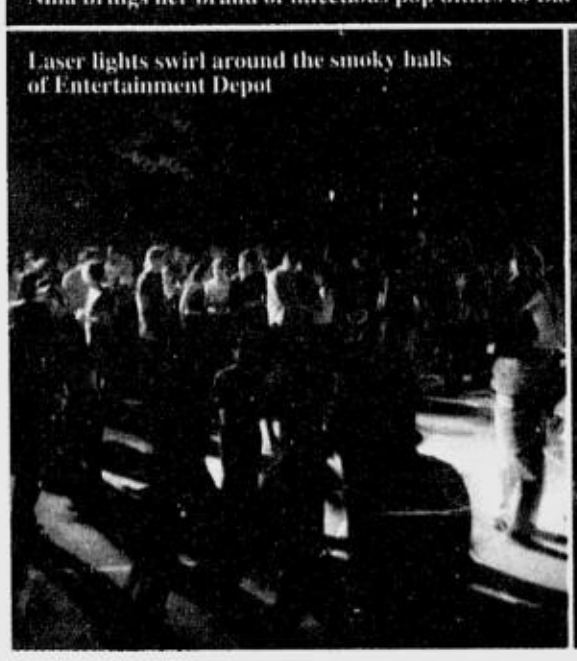


Nina brings her brand of infectious pop ditties to Bar 21 on Lacson Street

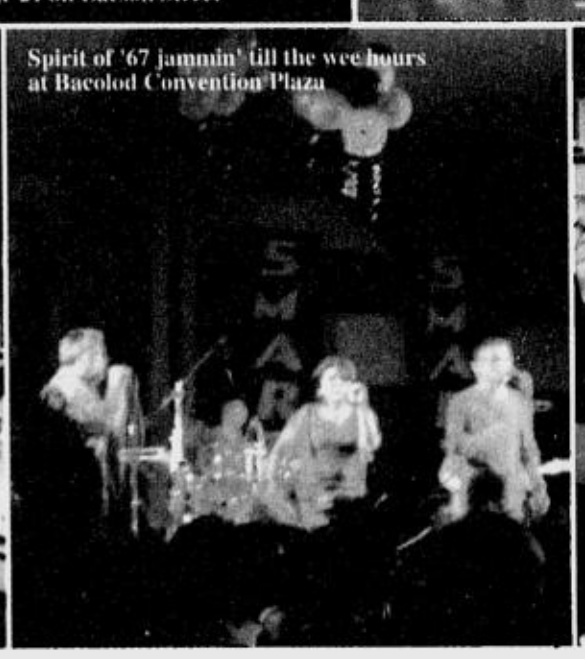


Coke and FEDEX battle it out in the La Salle gymnasium courtesy of Talk 'N Text

The SMART Buddy plane swoops over the parade



Laser lights swirl around the smoky halls of Entertainment Depot



Spirit of '67 jammin' till the wee hours at Bacolod Convention Plaza

Partying on: this year's Masskara Festival was one of the liveliest to date, thanks to SMART Buddy's support

ADVT.

Businesswatch

By Corazon A. Ong

Her Sweet Success

VICENTE CARREON

Aling Emma has been turning out Pagsanjan's most famous native delicacies for 44 years

AT 68, Emma Zalameda Aguilar continues to do what she does best—sell native rice cakes and delicacies. A sign outside her store in Pagsanjan, Laguna says it all: "*Aling* Emma's Kakanin and Special *Pasalubong*." She has been in this business for 44 years now, not counting the years when she helped her mother sell their stuff as a child.

Their family used to run a small restaurant fronting the town's plaza, featuring native sweets from Laguna and their piece de resistance—*bibingkang* Pagsanjan cooked the old-fashioned way. "*May gatong sa ilalim at sa ibabaw at tanging bunot lang ng niyog ang gamit na panggatong* (Using coconut husks as fuel, the rice cake is exposed to heat from above and below)," says *Aling* Emma. Using either charcoal or wood will alter the taste, so a heavy storm can stop production. "*Kapag walang niyog ay wala rin kaming luto* (When there are no coconuts, we can't cook the *bibingka*, either)."

The recipe for their specialty is some sort of family heirloom, with *Aling* Emma's mother inheriting it from her aunts. Aside from *galapong* (ground glutinous rice), the recipe calls for shredded cheese and six eggs per cake. "The eggs make the cake retain its softness for days even without refrigeration," says *Aling* Emma proudly.

When first introduced, the rice cake cost P25 each. It now sells for P100. On ordinary days, *Aling* Emma sells 20 cakes daily; by mid-morning, they're sold out so regular patrons have to reserve them in advance.

The store is at its busiest on Christmas and New Year, when cooking goes nonstop to meet surging demand. The batter is prepared the night before to give it ample time to rise; cooking then starts at 1 a.m. Customers have to give three days' notice for holiday orders, says *Aling* Emma.

Their shop also sells *kalamay*, *espasol*, and *suman* (assorted rice cakes). *Aling* Emma's powderless espasol mixed with shredded *buco* (young coconut meat) is individually wrapped in banana leaves. A pack of 10 costs P60. Also homemade are bottled pickles of papaya, *ubod* (heart of palm), *ampalaya* (bitter melon), *kangkong* (swamp cabbage) or whatever vegetable is in season. Prices range from P60 to P80. Of late, she has introduced bottled sweet calamansi with macapuno filling. A small bottle costs P100 while a medium-sized one costs P200.

Aling Emma's store has also become a one-stop shop for various Laguna and Quezon products such as *longganisang* Lucban, individually-wrapped Nagcarlan *espasol*, *uraro* (cornstarch cookies) of Liliw, garlic chips from San Pablo, *balaw-balaw* (tiny shredded shrimps) from Pakil, *chicharon*, sampaloc candies, peanuts and coconut jam.

No wonder her patrons have expanded to include such celebrities as Caridad Sanchez, Gloria Romero and Lorna Tolentino. "When they're shooting a movie in these parts, they would all come, including the director. And they call me *Nanay* (mother)," she says.

Business is so good that Aling Emma has to extend her store hours from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. And, except for the time when her mother and sister passed away, the store has had no break to speak of.

But then again, the store has become home to *Aling* Emma. Behind the counter, she keeps a small TV set and a sofa to lounge on between serving her customers. "I move around a lot attending to my customers' needs and that serves as exercise for me," she says. A bout with high blood pressure three years ago has since tempered her taste for pork and sweets.

Despite her age, *Aling* Emma isn't about to pass on the business to any of her four children. With husband Rogelio Aguilar earning good money with his own car repair shop nearby, she can take things easy. But she can't imagine life without her store, she says. "I enjoy talking and interacting with people," she says, adding that she has gotten to know her customers so well she can even recognize their voice over the phone.

She readily admits though that tending a business is always hard work. "You have to be patient and must never compromise the quality of your products," says *Aling* Emma who obviously relishes the sweet taste of success.

Aling Emma can be reached at (049) 8210356.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Of Dead and Living Saints

As long as we don't give up "being God's beloved," we are saints in the biblical sense because God won't give up on us

ALLOW me to greet you with the greeting of the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians: "To the saints in Ephesus, to you who believe in Christ Jesus, receive grace and peace from God our Father and from Jesus the Lord." *(Eph 1:1-2)*

Paul greeted the church communities in Rome and Corinth in the same manner—calling them "saints." You are called to be holy, he said, you are called to be saints because you belong to God by baptism. You are God's beloved!

Therefore, as long as we don't give up "being God's beloved"—here or hereafter—we are saints indeed in the biblical sense. God won't give up on us.

When we celebrate All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2), we are actually greeting the multitude of God's beloved—both the Dead and the Living—who have not given up their gift of belovedness.

The gift of our belovedness echoes the voice of the Father when Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan. "You are my Beloved Son on whom my favor rests," the voice said. It is the same voice which speaks quietly in our hearts: "You are my beloved. You are dear to me. Your name is carved on the palm of my hand. I will not forget you—like a mother, thinking and remembering always the beloved child of her womb." (Is 49:15)

We are invited to remember this precious gift of our belovedness especially when we are out there in the world, where we are forced to listen to the many conflicting voices telling us, "Prove that you are really worth loving. Do you have money? Do you have influence? Power? Are you popular? Are you attractive? Are you successful? Are you 'in'? What have you to show? Come on, or else you are irrelevant; you are worthless, stupid and good-for-nothing. You are not worth inviting to our party."

The next thing I found myself doing was rejecting myself, and then struggling to outdo the others in order to be noticed and accepted. I joined the rat race competing for power, fame and fortune as my way of belonging to the circle of the "successful," the "lovable," and the "great."

This crazy race to the top has driven many of the more ambitious fellow-racers to hospitals, psychiatric clinics, courtrooms, and jailhouses, even to an early death. "I felt my chest beginning to congest," one of my fellow runners confessed, "because of worry, envy, anger and mounting tension." They suffered from all sorts of emotional and physical symptoms, from nail-biting and insomnia to gastric ulcers, cardiac disease, cancer, and allergies of all kinds—all of them wanting to prove themselves worthy to be loved and accepted, and to belong.

One day, while I was in a bus in the midst of traffic during a heavy downpour, a small voice said in my heart: "Be still, my child, for I am God loving you. Even if you are not rich, powerful, popular and smart, you are still precious to me."

Those who have heard the same voice in their hearts and remained faithful to the gift of their belovedness are the "living saints" today, the "sanctified brethren" referred to by the apostle Paul in his greeting to the church in Corinth.

We do not have to be a Mother Teresa (called the Living Saint of the Gutters); we do not have to dream of getting canonized someday to deserve the title "Saint" (with a capital S). We are all God's beloved. And this gift of our belovedness transcends all racial and social barriers and religious traditions.

It is not true that God loves Brother Mike Velarde more than He loves Brother Eddie Villanueva, or that He loves Ka Erdie Manalo less than He loves Cardinal Sin. It is a myth that the Kingdom of God belongs only to the Christians. When Jesus said that "there are many dwelling places in my Father's house" (Jn 14:1-5), he assured us never to worry about being turned away by his Father. It is we, not God, who slam our doors at one another. It is we who have no room in our hearts for those who do not think, dance or worship the way we do. We judge, condemn and ridicule others as "poor," "uncivilized," "sinners," and "nincompoops" just because they belong to a different church or political party, or sing a different tune.

Just as I have often experienced being healed and saved every time another person dares to welcome and love me—even the worst part of me—without questions asked, so also I ask for the gift of empowerment to be able to welcome and respect you—even the worst part of you—without fear or guilt. For God loves us at least as much as the person who loves us without questions asked!

I have met not a few persons out there in the most unlikely places, believing and living this tremendous gift of their belovedness from day to day. And they don't even look very saintly, I tell you. But saints do live among us today, thank God!

* * *

November 30, 5th Sunday of the month and First Sunday of Advent. The CMY Communities will journey to Shepherd's Place in Dasmariñas, Cavite for Holy Mass at 10 a.m. Bring something for the Brunch Agape after the Eucharist. It's also our First Monito-Monita Sunday.

For details, please call Joe Ladip (0917-8912959), Angge Soriano (374-2170) or Tina Bonifacio 620-6235.

By Jess Abrera

Art

Paintings, Rock Drilon's collection of works done within the past decade, until Nov. 4 at the Mag:net Gallery, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño Sts, Makati City.

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila, in cooperation with the Australian Embassy in Manila, presents the exhibit, **Kiripuranji: Contemporary Art from the Tiwi Islands**. The show is on view at the Catwalk Galleries until Nov. 9. For inquiries, call 523-7855.

"Nostalgic Realism" by Danilo Pangan at the SM Megamall Artwalk

Nostalgic Realism, three-dimensional paintings of historical sites and architecture by Danilo S. Pangan at the Contreras Sculptures, the Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A until Nov. 10.

Marjorie Chu, a Singapore-based art collector and gallery owner, is presenting **contemporary artworks** by well-known Southeast Asian artists from her private collection in a special exhibit on the second level lobby of The Podium from Nov. 5-11 in association with Finale Art File. It also coincides with the launch of Chu's book "Understanding Contemporary Southeast Asia Art."

Music

Crossover Concert presents Lani Misalucha at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental on Nov. 6 at 8 p.m. Joining her are the vocal quartet The Opera, the R&B group 604 and Marielle. For inquiries, call 750 8888 ext. 2417.

On-stage

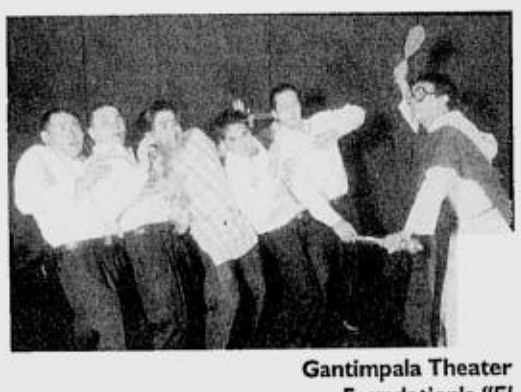
Tanghalang Pilipino will stage ***Himala*, The Musical** at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute starting Nov. 7. Based on the film by Ishmael Bernal, the musical tackles the endless struggle of man in his quest to find something to believe in. Starring May Bayot as Elsa, Isay Alvarez, Cynthia Culig-Guico, Eladio Pamaran and Ariel Reonal with the special participation of Dulce. The musical runs for three weekends with matinees at 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and 8 p.m. performances on Fridays and Saturdays. For inquiries, call 832-3661 and 832-1125 local 1620 and 1621.

Gantimpala Theater Foundation presents ***El Filibusterismo*** on Nov. 7, 8 and 9, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Vito Cruz, Manila. The performance runs for the whole month of November at the AFP Theater, RFC Theater in Las Piñas City and Cabuyao Theater in Laguna. For inquiries, call 899-5745 and 896-3503.

The Learning Child School in Ayala Alabang Village is presenting **Trumpets'** production of **Fables and Parables** at the Insular Life Theater-Alabang on Nov. 16 at 3 p.m. There will also be an auction and the TLC Smiles and Styles fashion show. Proceeds from the event will go to charity and outreach projects of the Learning Child School Parents' Association. For details, call Tachie Herrera at 850-8432.

Atbp

Bantay Kalikasan launched a unique way where people can help in the rehabilitation of the La Mesa Watershed—**The Bantay Kalikasan Cards**. Each Bantay Kalikasan Christmas Card you give includes a gift of a tree which will be planted and cared for at the La Mesa under the name of the card recipient. The card costs P150. Customized cards carrying personal or corporate logos are also available. Bantay Kalikasan Cards are available at the Manansala Model Unit at Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Manila Peninsula newsstand, Lopez Museum and at Bantay Kalikasan. For orders, call Cristina Avaricio at 415-2227, 415-2272 local 4551 and at 410-9670.



Gantimpala Theater Foundation's *"El Filibusterismo"*

Sweets n More located at 1225 Estrada St. cor. Aquino St. in Malate is offering **chocolate molding, baking and cooking classes.** On Nov 8. at 8:30 a.m. learn how to bake great tasting cakes like Mango cake, Chocolate Mousse Cake and refreshing twists like Black and White cake and Pandan Macapuno Delight. In the afternoon, learn how to make goodies for giveaways like Loaded Choco Bar Supreme, Caramel Bars, Marble Fudge Bars, Soft Chocolate Crinkles and Mango Bars. On Nov. 15, 1 p.m., learn how to bake cheese and cinnamon rolls and ensaymadas. Chocolate molding sessions are held by appointment inclusive of starter kits. For inquiries, call 536-5468 or 0916-8758704. Regular classes will be held until December.

A **Marketing Your School seminar-workshop** will be held on Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Room 606 ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Seminar fee is P1,295 inclusive of certificate, snacks and handouts. Reservations accepted until Nov. 7. For details, call 823-2615.

Deadline for reservations to the **5th Super Bazaar and Food Fair 2003** is on Nov. 7. Interested parties may call Ely or Malou at 819-0006 or 819-1497. The fair, slated on Nov. 29 and 30 at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City, will feature homemade food products and delicacies, fashion items, gifts and decors, toys, native products and crafts.

The Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines will hold **photography workshops** for students and hobbyists. The basic photo course will be on Nov. 8, 15 and 22 at the Design Center Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard while Digital Photography will be held on Nov. 9, 16 and 23. For pre-registration, look for Marsha at Fujifilm Image Service Center, Studio Room, SM Megamall Basement or Beth at Once Upon a Lifetime Digital Studio, Unit 1010 (tel. 806-1346).

The first **Conversations with God retreat workshop**, "Remember and Recreate: Conversations with the Soul," will be held on Nov. 8 and 9, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Martha's Vineyard, Amapola cor. Estrella Sts., Makati City. For reservations, call Jean Moya at (02) 410-7449 or 0917-5360005.

The Department of Literature of De La Salle University-Manila holds a **book discussion** on "The Trilogy of Saint Lazarus" on Nov. 10, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ariston Estrada Seminar Room, DLSU, 2401 Taft Avenue, Manila, with Dr. Cirilo F. Bautista and Mr. Ramil Digal Gulle as featured writer and critic. For inquiries, call 524-4611 loc. 509 and 532.

The **5th Angel Sent Bazaars** will be held on Nov. 15 and 16 and Dec. 20 and 21 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Lower Lobby featuring products from small and medium enterprise, manufacturers and exporters, and select imported products. For details, call 820-7879.

ABC-CBN's **scriptwriting workshop** is still open to applicants. Registration is on Nov. 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Studio One, ABS-CBN. The free workshop is to be conducted by Ricky Lee. There will be a screening to determine the participants for the 3-month workshop. Bring an ID and two passport-size photos. For inquiries, call 928-9557 or 411-2020.

May Bayot is Elsa in *"Himala*: The Musical"

Unesco Paris Exhibit featured the **Virtual Museum on Philippine Communication and Media**. The Centrum website at www.comcentrum.ph chronicles the evolution, directions and trends of Philippine communication and media. The Centrum book "Media as a Battlefield, Coverage of the War in Iraq" was also among the selected exhibit materials for the Unesco Paris exhibition held from Sept. 29-Oct. 17. The Centrum is a project of the Philippine Communication Centrum Foundation, UNESCO National Commission and the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication. For inquiries, call42 725-4227 and 725-4228.

X-manila

Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park, together with Weddings@Work and Metro Weddings Magazine, will stage the 4th Cavite Brides and Debutantes Fair billed as ***Kasalan*, The Island Ways of Wedding** on Nov. 14, 15 and 16 at the resort's Floating Pavilions. The exhibit is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. As an event highlight, the Cavite Model's Group will present "Traje 2," a dinner-fashion show on Nov. 15 that will showcase the creations of Renee Salud, Fanny Serrano and Eddie Baddeo. Interested exhibitors may call (02) 810-3718 or (046) 434-0210, or email inquiry@islandcovephil.com for details.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Keeper

...from page 3

has four main duties: organizing the Presidential Museum, bringing a more historical sense to Kalayaan Hall and the Palace, helping Malacañang draw up policies regarding presidential gifts, art and books, and assisting with presidential awards, decorations and medals.

What we now know as Malacañang, seat of Philippine presidential power, was originally a summer home in the 18th century, bounded by the Pasig River. It would become the official residence, first of the Spanish Governor-General, and later, of the American equivalent.

Manolo explains that while the Palace received regular facelifts, it was all done with a sense of continuity, and that his own grandfather had changed quite a bit during the Quezon presidency. "He was very famous or notorious, depending on whom you talk to, as being very creative about his buildings. As my dad used to tell me, he used to walk around the house, moving things. The house was always changing."

The Palace survived the Second World War, and more or less stayed the same until Martial Law. "Most of the changes were decorative. When the Marcoses moved in, they didn't make big changes until Martial Law. The security was tightened and no one was allowed in anymore. Around 1978, which was to be the Marcoses' 25th wedding anniversary, the place was falling apart, full of mosquitoes, kind of dilapidated. They felt it was too difficult to renovate it so they rebuilt it. It became bomb-proof, bullet-proof." By his own personal estimate, Manolo says about 85 percent of the original structure was torn down. "The aesthetics were completely new society."

Fortuitously, one important structure was left: Kalayaan Hall. Now the oldest part of Malacañang, Kalayaan Hall served for many years as the Executive Office. Manolo says that there's no documentary evidence, "but what they say is that Marcos was very fond of the building, and didn't let Imelda touch it that much. In fact, the biggest damage done to the building was after Marcos started getting sick after 1981."

In the intervening years, the different presidents changed only a few things in the Palace. Kalayaan Hall became the haunt of the press corps. When the press were moved back to a smaller portion of the building, Kalayaan Hall became the home of the Presidential Museum and became a site for restoration. There was a search for the old furniture, many of which we found in the other buildings. Four rooms were restored and renamed according to the presidents identified with them. "So the old presidential office is the Quezon Room, the old council of state room is now the Quirino Room, because that's where he took his oath of office. The old cabinet room is now the Roxas Room, because that's where Roxas used to have his cabinet meetings. Downstairs, which is the cabinet room from the time of the Americans, is the Osmeña Room, because when he was the number one Filipino, he used to go there to represent the country."

Kalayaan Hall's Presidential Museum will hopefully be open to the public by December. Aside from the restored room, visitors will be able to learn about the history of the presidency and see everything from presidential gifts to memorabilia from individual presidents.

As his appointment is co-terminus with the President's term, which ends May 2004, Manolo is trying to make sure they get everything done by then. One would think all this is enough work for one guy, but together with his full-time Palace job, Manolo is an editorial writer and columnist for another broadsheet and associate managing editor at the Philippines Free Press.

In what little spare time he has, Manolo engages in the activities he treasures, in private. "I still need time to read and do the stuff I enjoy. I am the reclusive son of a recluse. Basically, I'm self-educated in many ways, so reading is my way of relaxing and feeding my brain, and in my line of work, the brain is all you have." Then, there is his hobby of collecting and researching Philippine war and civilian medals as well as his interest in flags and coats of arms.

Aside from the Barong Tagalogs he had to purchase to meet the Palace dress code when he began, Manolo has had to make adjustments. "I've never been a desk person. Never had to learn how to do paperwork or have a staff. It requires a lot of compartmentalization because I have to keep my integrity as a journalist." For him, it's a non-political job.

After May, he may resume work on the Manuel Roxas biography, a project he put on hold when he came to work at the Palace. He is a steadfast believer in the restoration. "I do believe that the public is getting more value for its money and resources by restoring the rooms to a condition that befits the dignity of the place."

History may now indeed have breathed a sigh of relief at Malacañang, thanks to this presidential grandson. "There's a part of me that feels good. Some people were laughing because I put so much effort in convincing people to help restore the Osmeña Room. People find it funny that a Quezon is helping restore the Osmeña Room. There is a sense of satisfaction because I'm old fashioned enough to believe that these people did do something for the country and have been forgotten."

Manolo Quezon, after all, may have found his own sense of continuity. "It makes you realize that your life has a certain trajectory, and I guess this is what I was meant to do."

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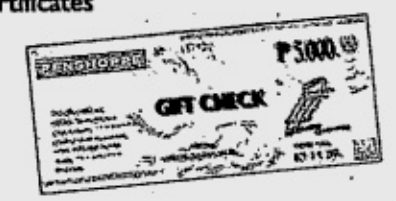

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Cry	Mandy Moore	cry
Only Hope	Mandy Moore	onlyhope
I Wanna Be With You	Mandy Moore	wannabewidu
17	Mandy Moore	17
Have A Little Faith in Me	Mandy Moore	faithinme
One Love	Blue	onelove
Don't Treat Me Like a Fool	Blue	treatmelyk
Flexin	Kyla	flexin
Can't Get You Out My Head	Kylie Minogue	getuoutmyhed
Love At First Sight	Kylie Minogue	luvat1stsyt
Be With You	Atomic Kitten	bewithyou
Tide Is High	Atomic Kitten	tideishigh
Design For Love	Jay R	design4luv
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Crazy In Love	Beyoncé Knowles	crazyinluv
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